DC
19
POWER GIRL
Judd WINICK
Sami BASRI
A GENERATION ...FOUND!!
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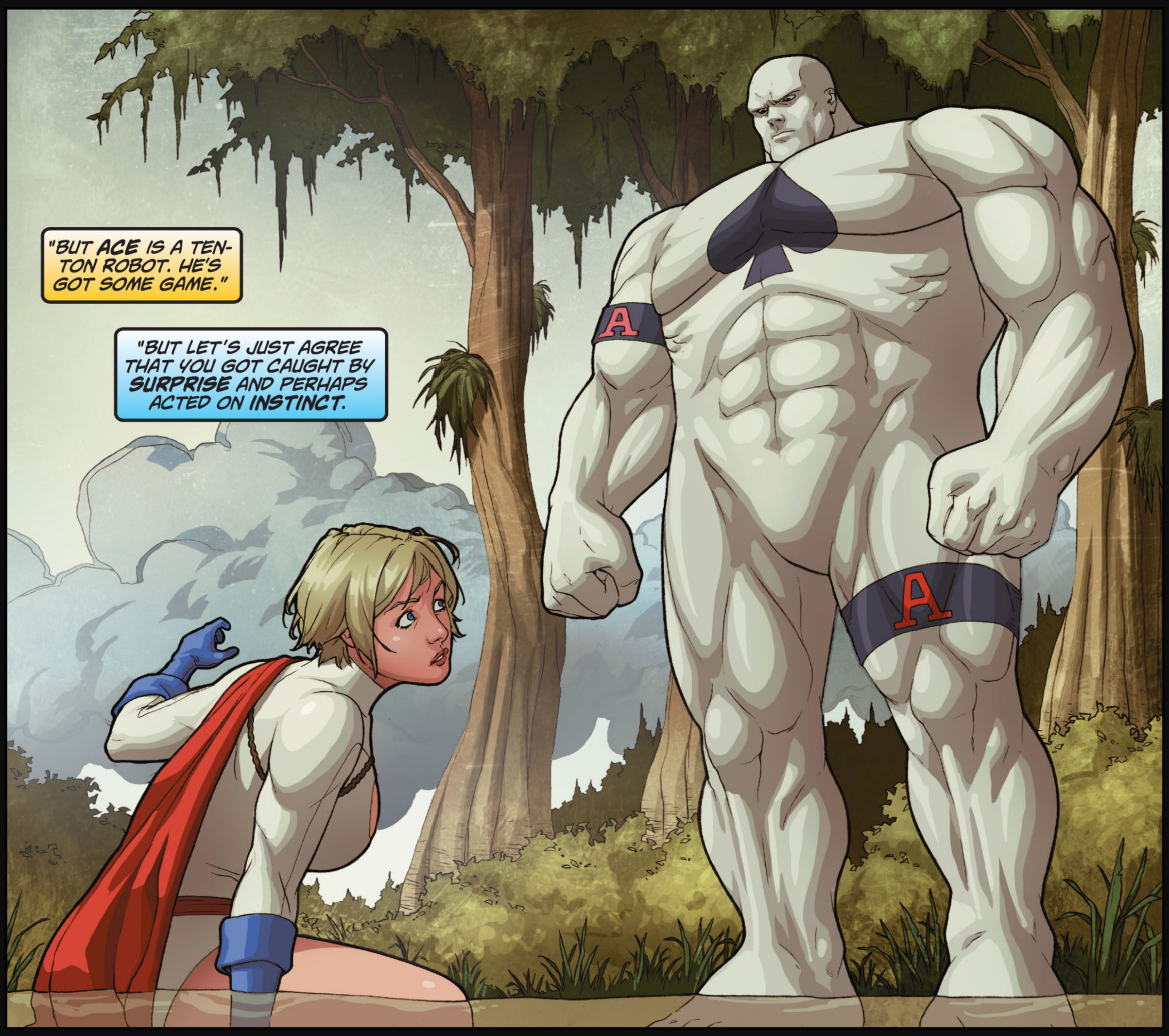
YEARS AGO. AND A LIFE OR TWO AWAY...
THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES.
"THE EVERGLADES? SERIOUSLY? WHAT THE HELL WERE THEY DOING THERE?"
"WE ASSUMED THAT YOU SOLD THEM SOME LAND THERE."
"YOU JOKE ABOUT THAT, BUT I DO HAPPEN TO HAVE SOME VERY FINE WETLANDS IN CHOKOLOSKEE."
"OF COURSE YOU DO."
"YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THIS FIGHT WE HAD OR NOT?"
"TELL ME EVERYTHING."
"SO, THERE WE WERE IN THE SWAMPS, FACING--

"--THE ROYAL FLUSH GANG!!"
"THERE'S A JOKE TO BE MADE HERE ABOUT THE EVERGLADES AND THE WORD 'FLUSH', BUT I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND IT.
"ANYWAY--WE'RE FACING THEM DOWN!"
"WE GOT THEM OUTNUMBERED, OUT-GUNNED AND FACE IT--OUTCLASSED!"
"AND YOU'RE VERY MODEST AND SELF-EFFACING AS WELL."
"AND--
"--POWER GIRL'S LEADING THE CHARGE!"
"I WASN'T 'LEADING THE CHARGE,' I JUST FLY FASTER THAN THE REST OF YOU."
"LEADING THE CHARGE! BUT MAYBE TOO QUICK FOR HER OWN GOOD, CUZ SOMEBODY GOT THE DROP ON HER."

"HE DIDN'T GET THE DROP ON ME. I WAS FOCUSED ELSEWHERE, BEATING UP ON JACK AND TEN.
"IT WASN'T LIKE I STOPPED TO SIGHTSEE OR SOMETHING."
"GOT. THE DROP. ON HER."

"WELL. YEAH. I GOT PASTED."


"BUT ACE IS A TEN-TON ROBOT. HE'S GOT SOME GAME."
"BUT LET'S JUST AGREE THAT YOU GOT CAUGHT BY SURPRISE AND PERHAPS ACTED ON INSTINCT.
A
A

"CUZ, YOU DID GO FOR A GROIN KICK ON A TEN-TON ROBOT."
"SO I TAKE IT THAT, SINCE ACE HAS THE EXTERIOR REPRODUCTIVE PLUMBING OF AN ACTION FIGURE, THIS HAD NO EFFECT."
"NO...
"... IT HAD AN EFFECT!"
"BIG EFFECT!"

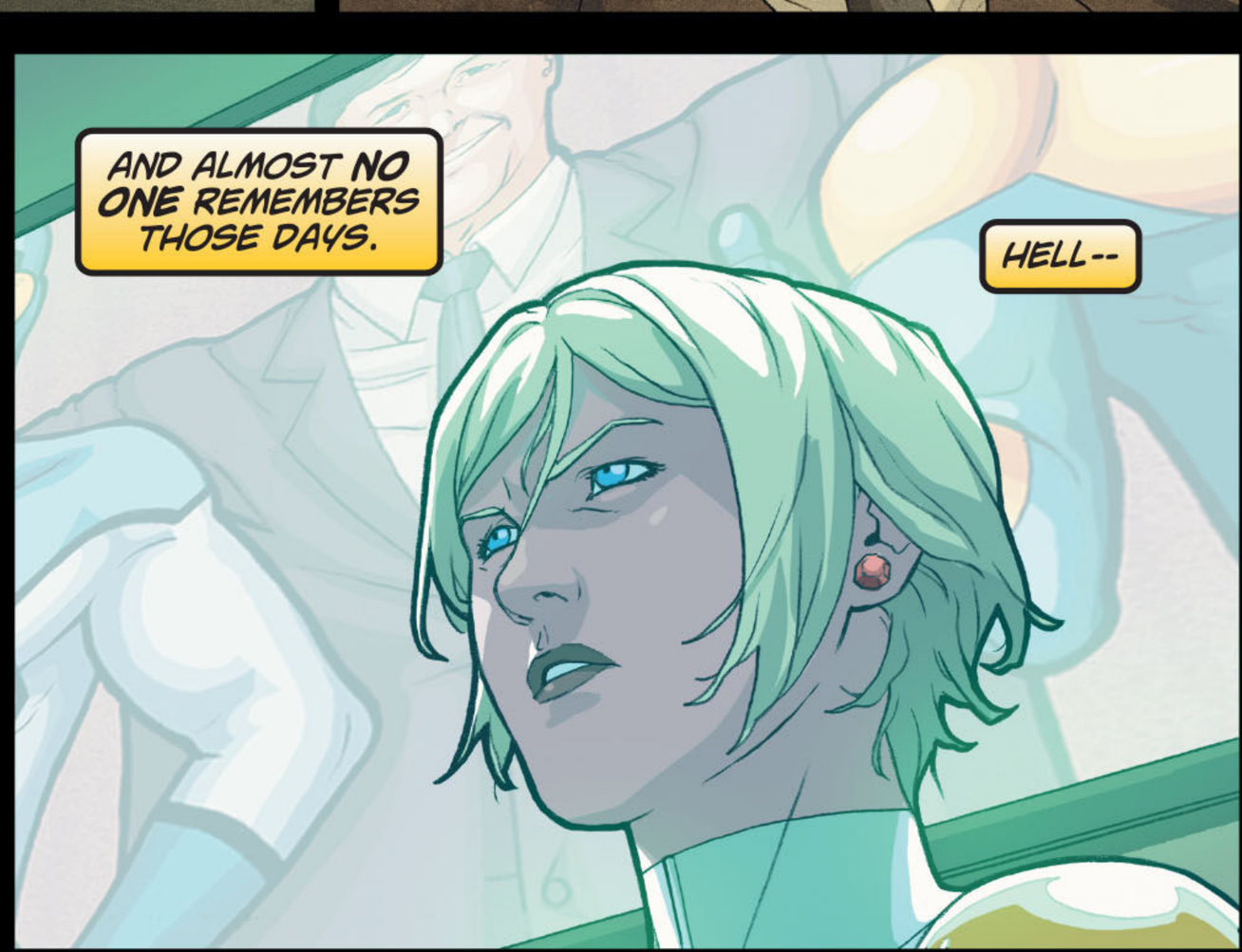
I THINK IT WAS DESIGNED THINKING THAT NO ONE--NO ONE--WOULD EVER KICK HIM IN THE CHOPS...
...SO THEY BURIED HIS ENERGY CELLS RIGHT THERE IN HIS--
ENERGY CELLS!!
BOOSTER GOLD.
BLUE BEETLE.
THIS IS WHAT I REMEMBER WHEN I THINK BACK.
I REMEMBER LAUGHING A LOT.

SURE. THERE WAS DANGER. WE FOUGHT HARD BATTLES.
WE WERE CONSTANTLY PUTTING OUR LIVES ON THE LINE.
BUT, ALL TOLD--IT WAS FUN.
I STILL CAN'T GET THIS CRAP OFF MY BOOT.
WELL, THEY GOTTA LEARN. THEY MESS WITH THE BULL--

--THEY GET THE HORNS.
I WAS WITH MY FRIENDS.
MAX LORD.
YOU CALLING ME A BULL, MAXWELL?
I AM.
TOUGH. POWERFUL. A THING OF BEAUTY.

EXCEPT YOU JUST DON'T HAVE ANY "ENERGY CELLS" DOWN SOUTH.
HE WAS MY FRIEND.

BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.


AND ALMOST NO ONE REMEMBERS THOSE DAYS.
HELL--

--THEY DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.
J.S.A. ALL-STARS HEADQUARTERS.
ONE STEP FORWARD
--TWO STEPS BACK
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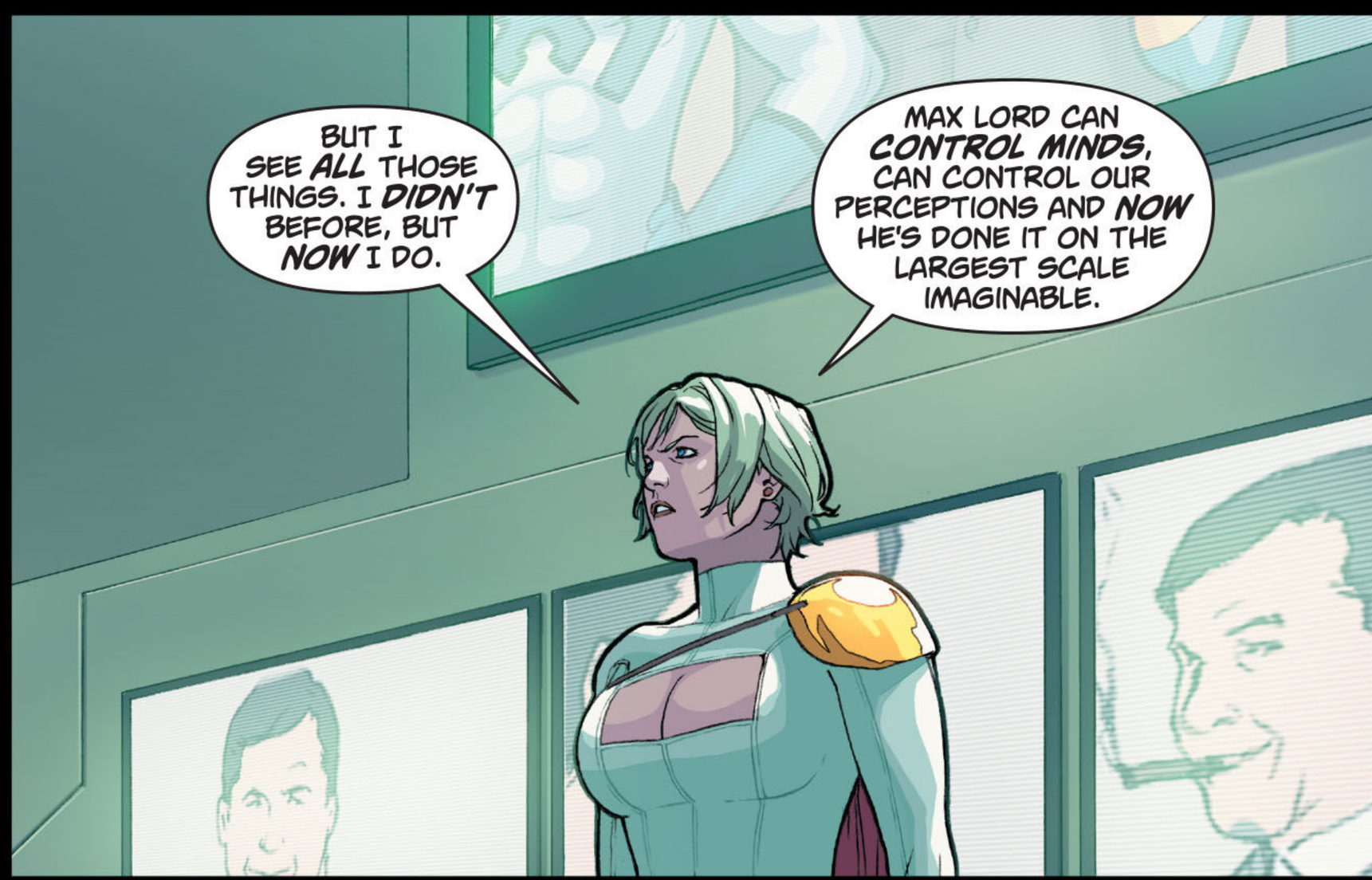
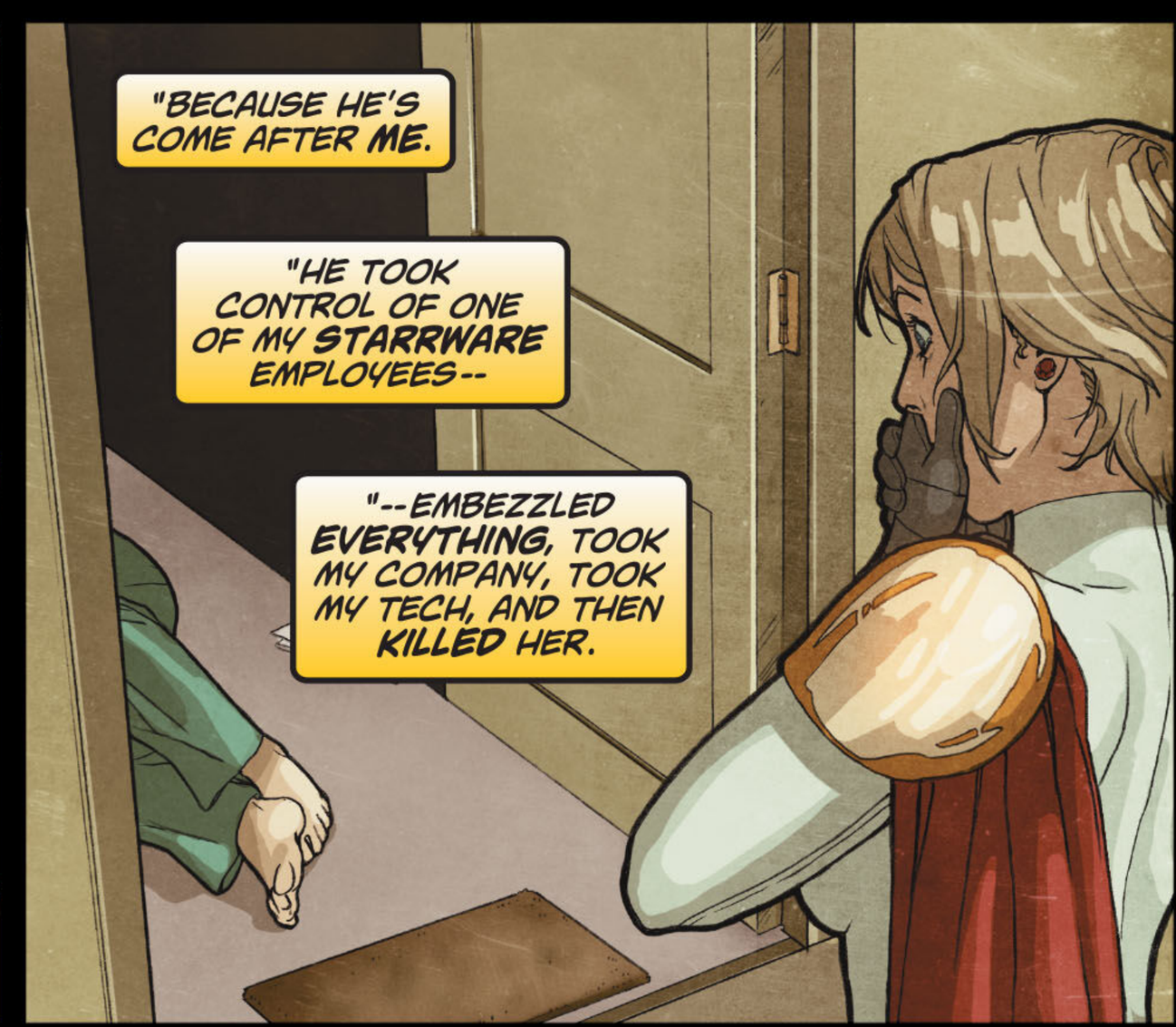
cover by BASRI & GHO
associate editor RACHEL GLUCKSTERN
editor MIKE CARLIN
HIS NAME IS MAX LORD. AND HE WANTS TO DESTROY US ALL.

HOW COULD WE JUST "FORGET" SOMEONE YOU SAID WAS ONE OF "THE BIGGEST PSYCHOS EVER TO WALK THE EARTH"?
AND THIS GUY DIDN'T HIJACK THE OMAC PROJECT, THAT WAS LEX LUTHOR.
NO. THAT WAS MAX LORD. AND HE'S NOT ONLY WIPED YOUR MEMORIES--
--BUT MANAGED TO REWRITE HISTORY AND TAKE HIMSELF OUT OF IT.
WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT THESE SCREENS?
YOU SEE A GUY IN A SUIT AMONG THE J.L.I.?
NO?
YOU SEE A MAN SPORTING CHECKMATE TOGS WITH HIS NECK BROKEN?
NO.
DO YOU SEE A SURVEILLANCE PHOTO OF A MAN TAKEN IN NEW YORK CITY NOT TOO LONG AGO?
NO.

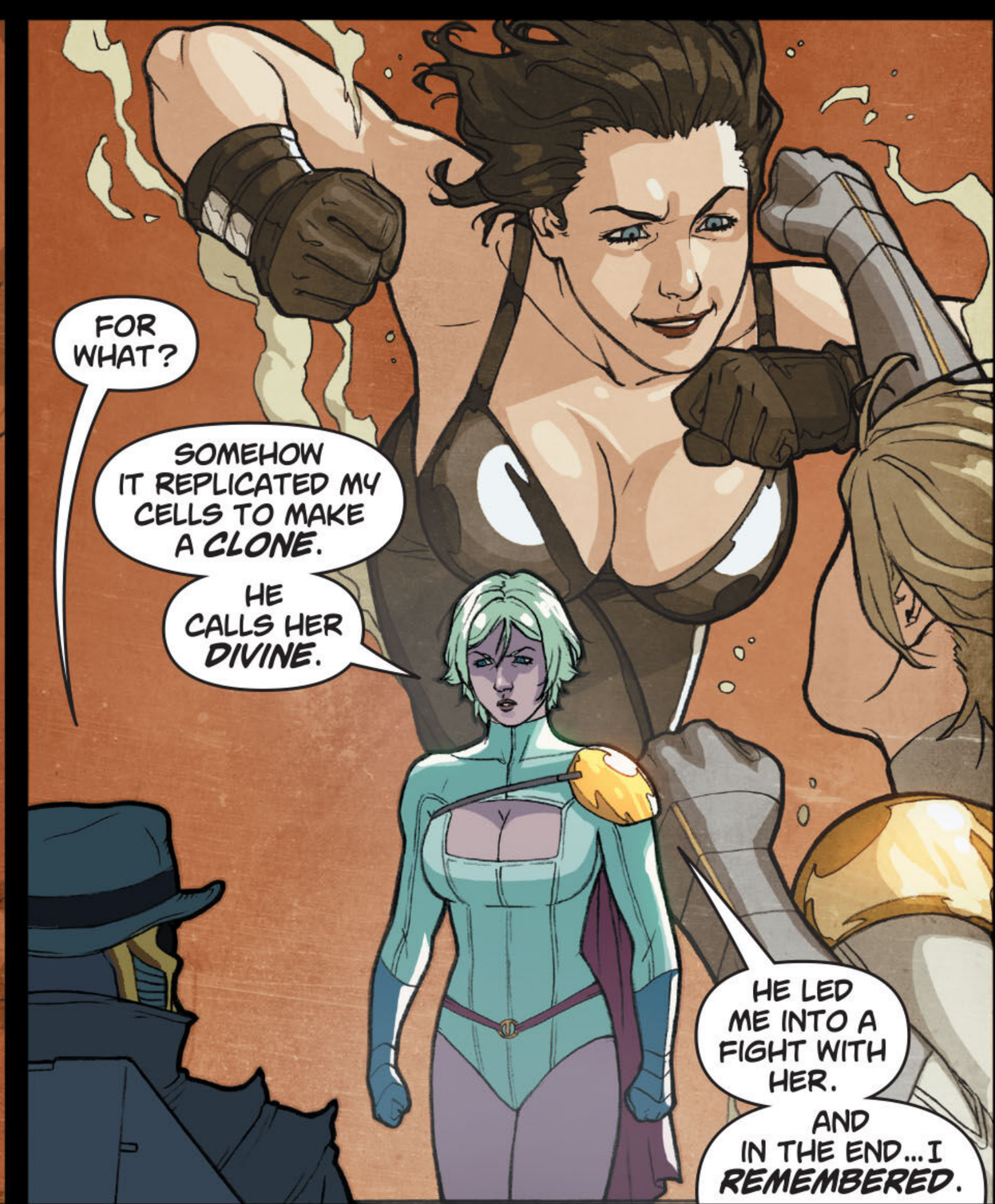

BUT I SEE ALL THOSE THINGS. I DIDN'T BEFORE, BUT NOW I DO.
MAX LORD CAN CONTROL MINDS, CAN CONTROL OUR PERCEPTIONS AND NOW HE'S DONE IT ON THE LARGEST SCALE IMAGINABLE.

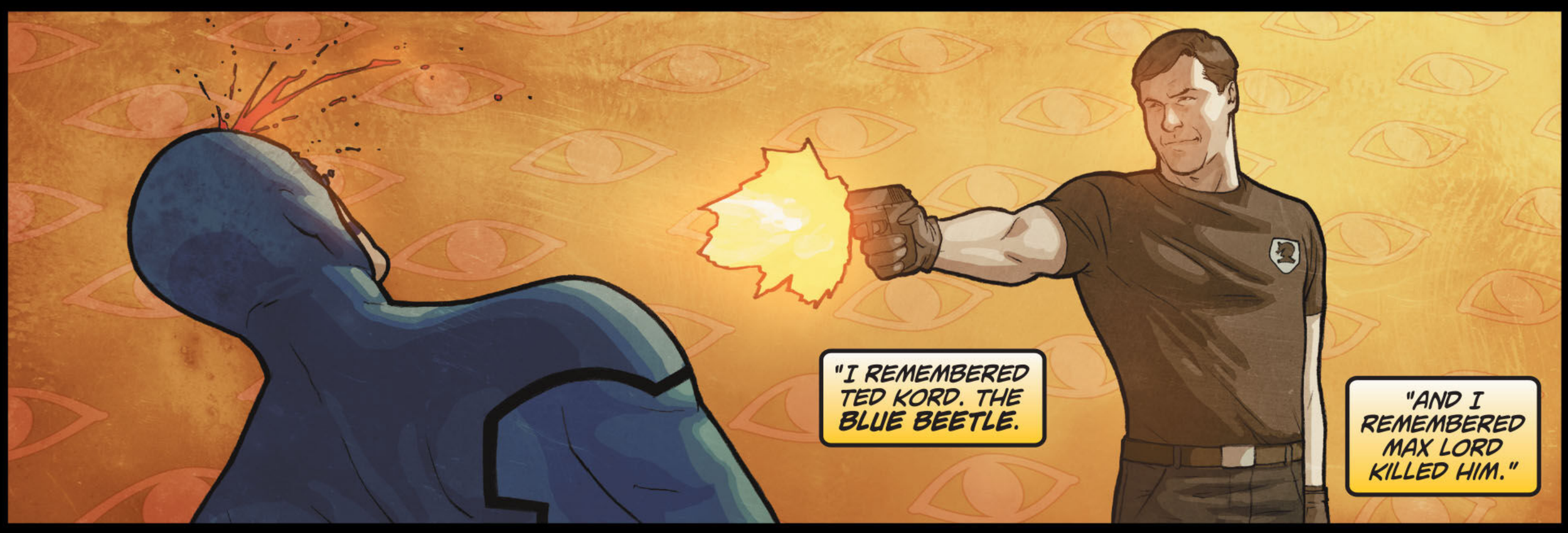
HE'S FOOLED THE WHOLE WORLD.

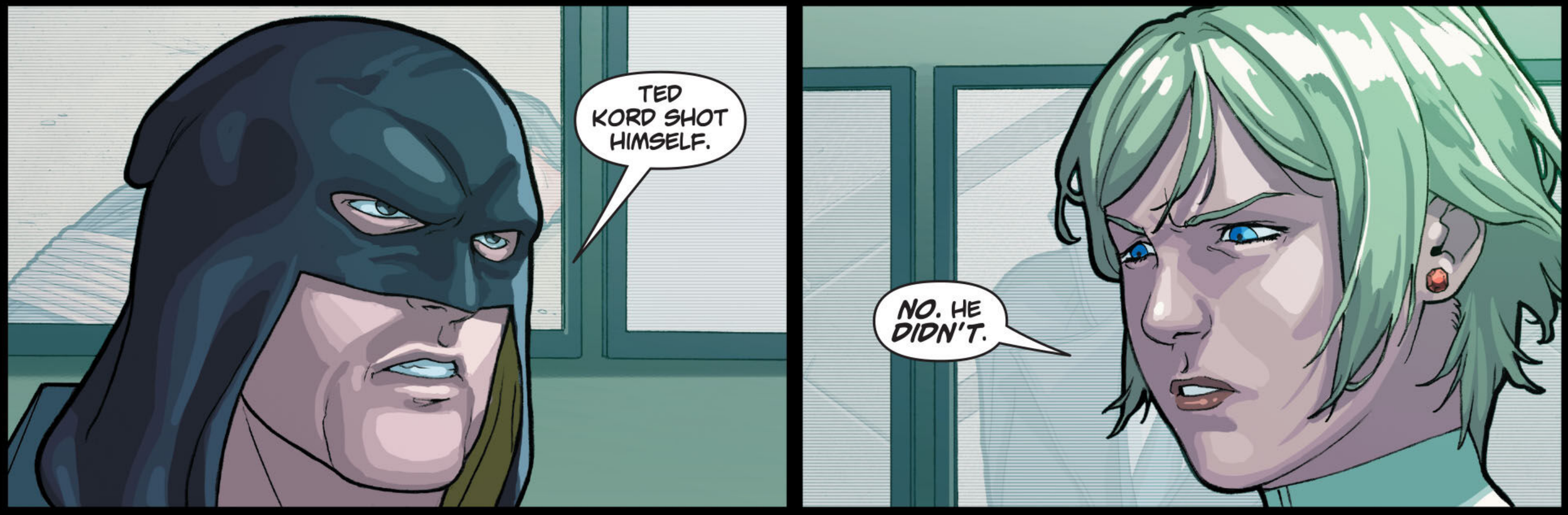
IF THIS IS TRUE--
IT IS TRUE.
OKAY...BUT WHY DO YOU REMEMBER AND THE REST OF US DON'T?

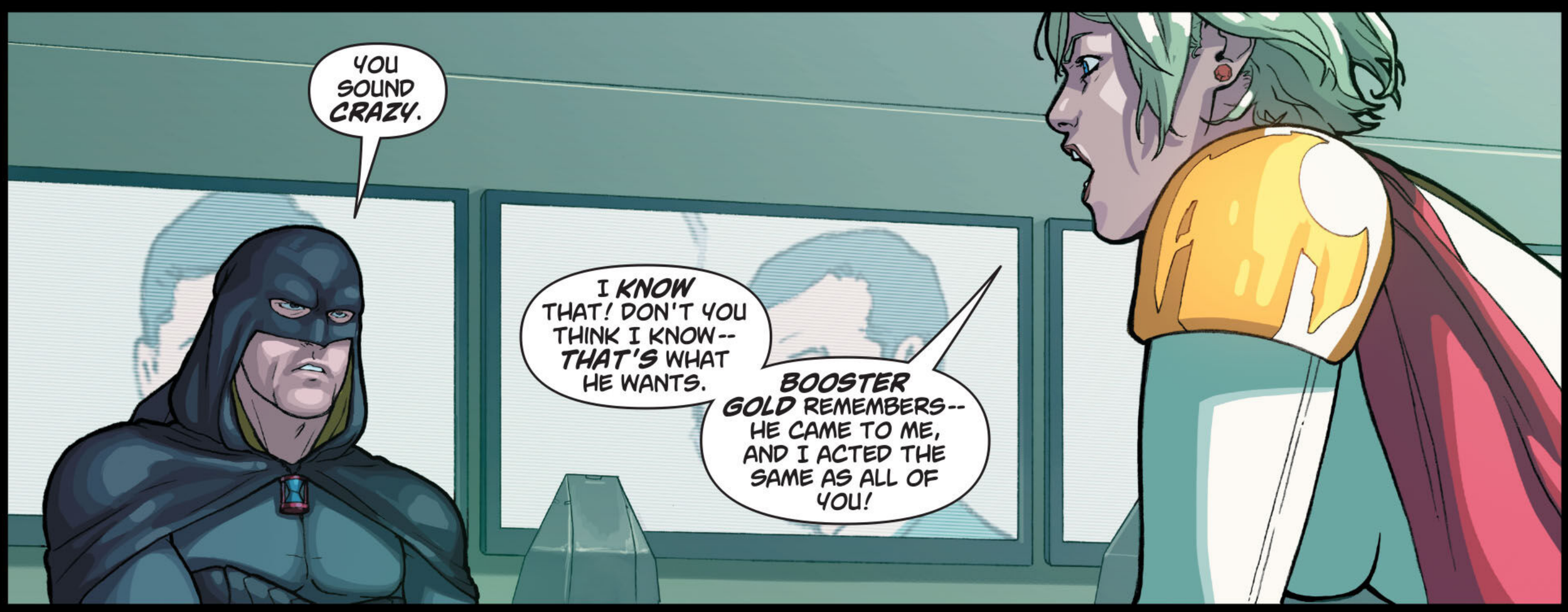

"BECAUSE HE'S COME AFTER ME.
"HE TOOK CONTROL OF ONE OF MY STARRWARE EMPLOYEES--
"--EMBEZZLED EVERYTHING, TOOK MY COMPANY, TOOK MY TECH, AND THEN KILLED HER.

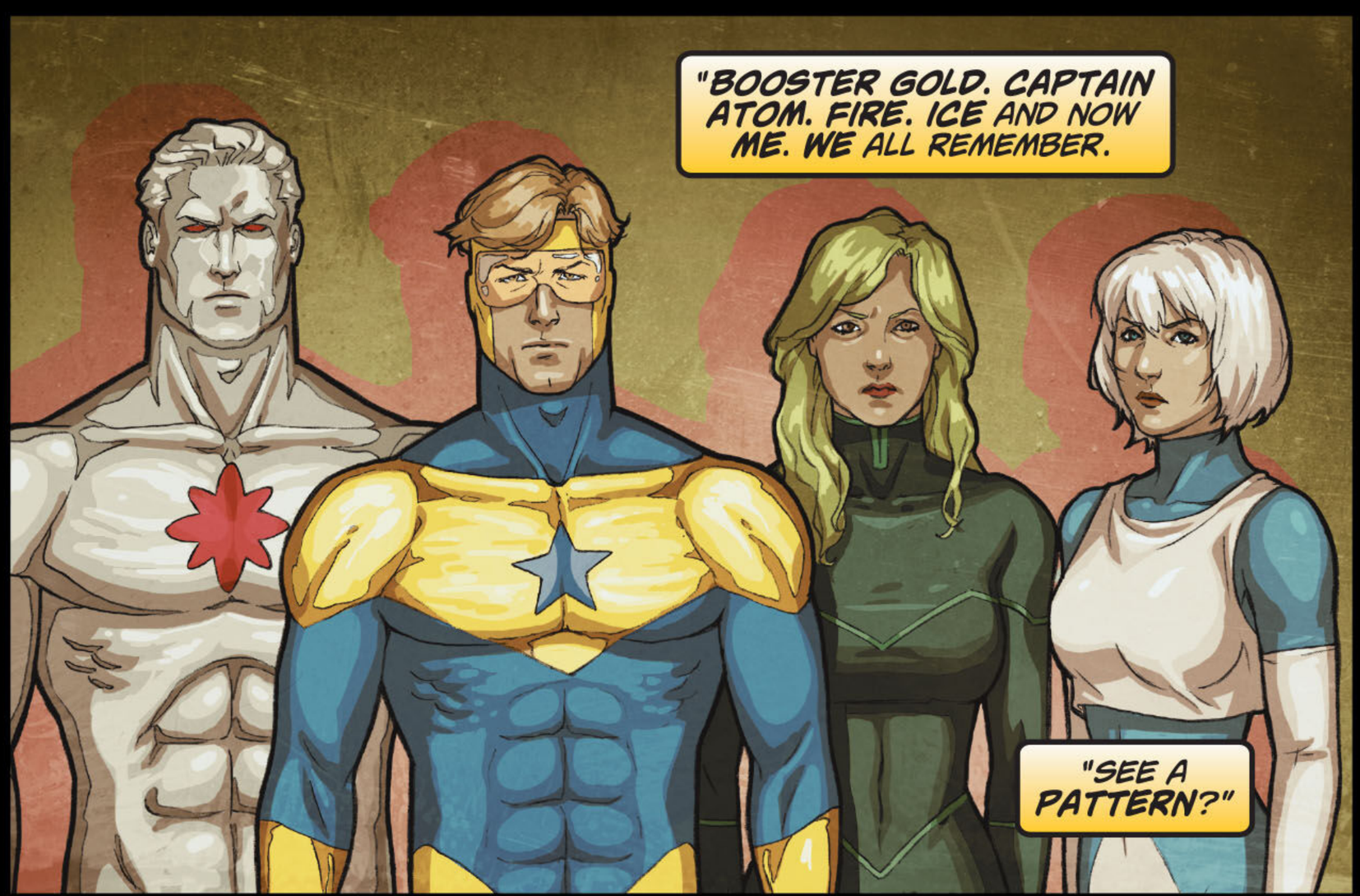
"I THINK HE UNLEASHED THAT CRASH CREATURE UPON NEW YORK CITY, JUST TO GET CLOSE TO ME IN A FIGHT.
"HE WAS COLLECTING DATA."

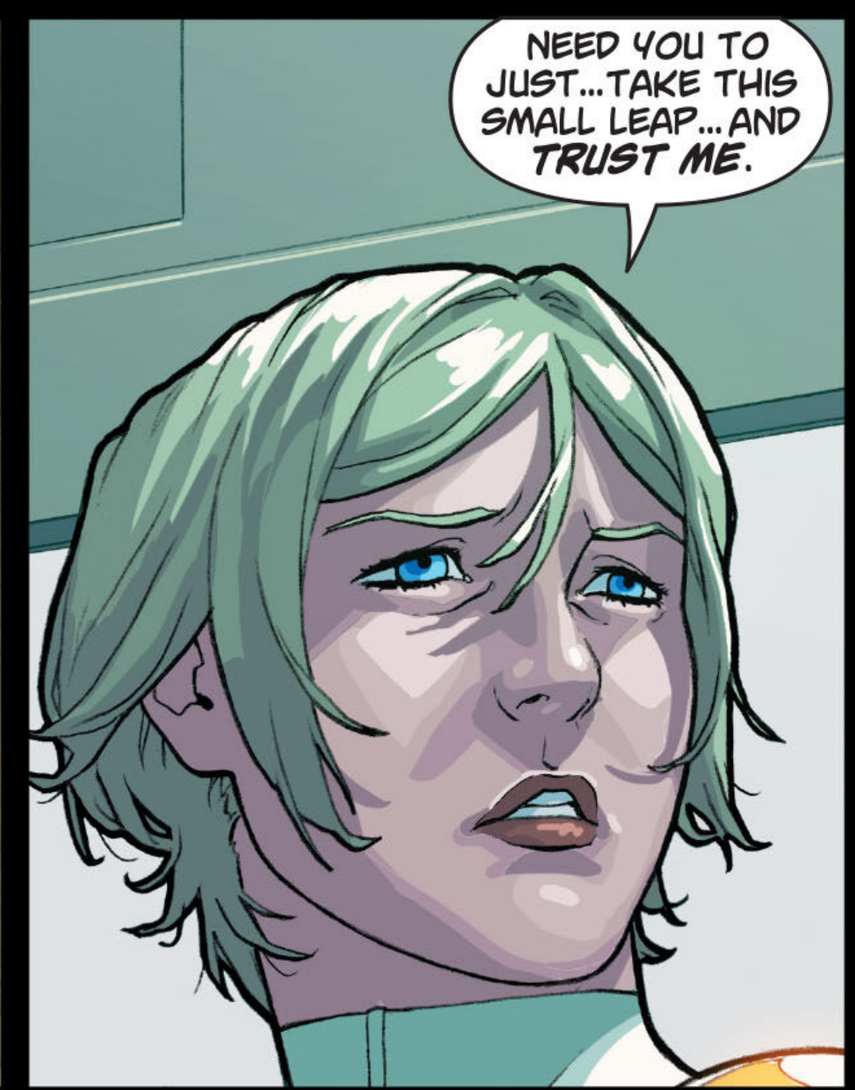

FOR WHAT?
SOMEHOW IT REPLICATED MY CELLS TO MAKE A CLONE.
HE CALLS HER DIVINE.
HE LED ME INTO A FIGHT WITH HER.
AND IN THE END...I REMEMBERED.

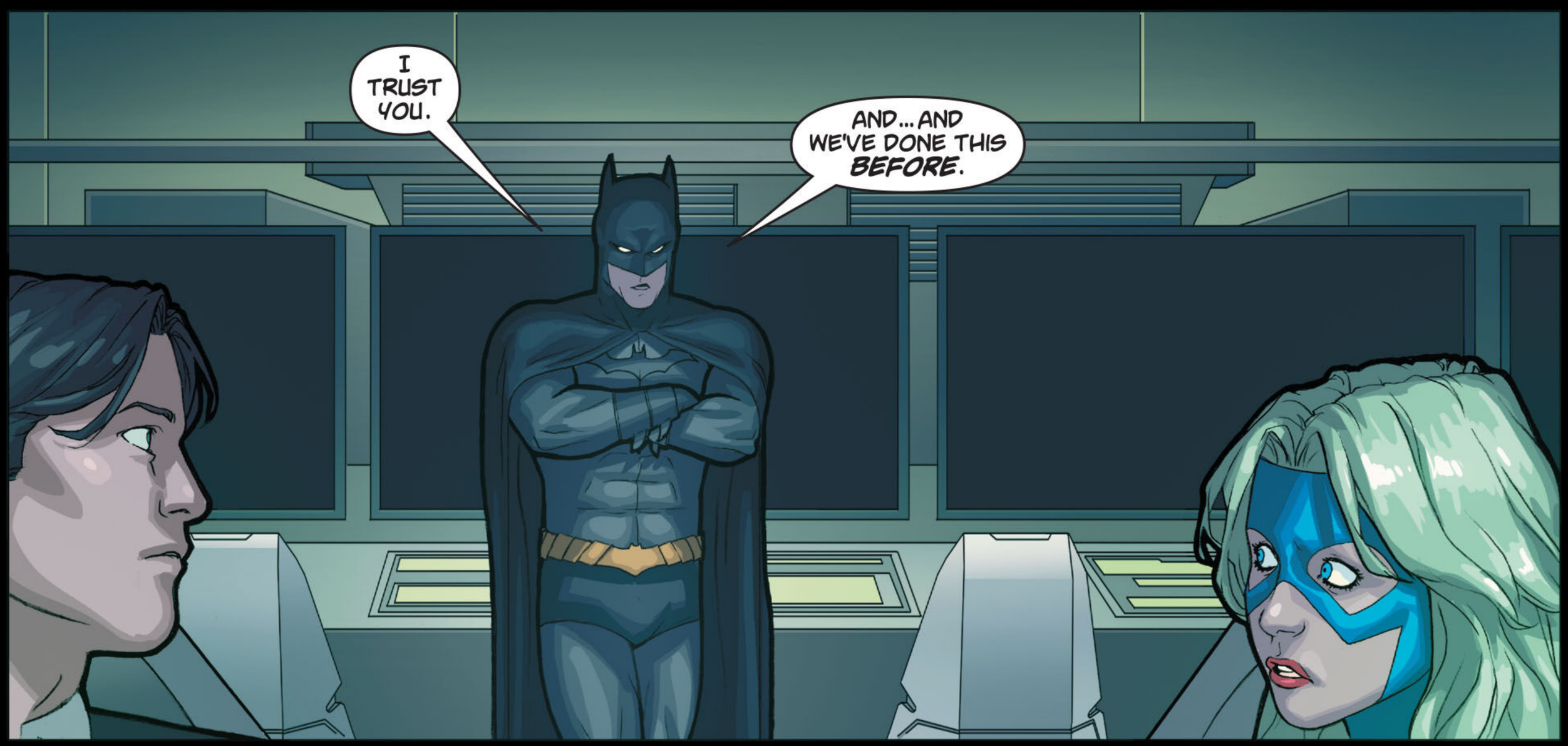

"I REMEMBERED TED KORD. THE BLUE BEETLE.
"AND I REMEMBERED MAX LORD KILLED HIM."

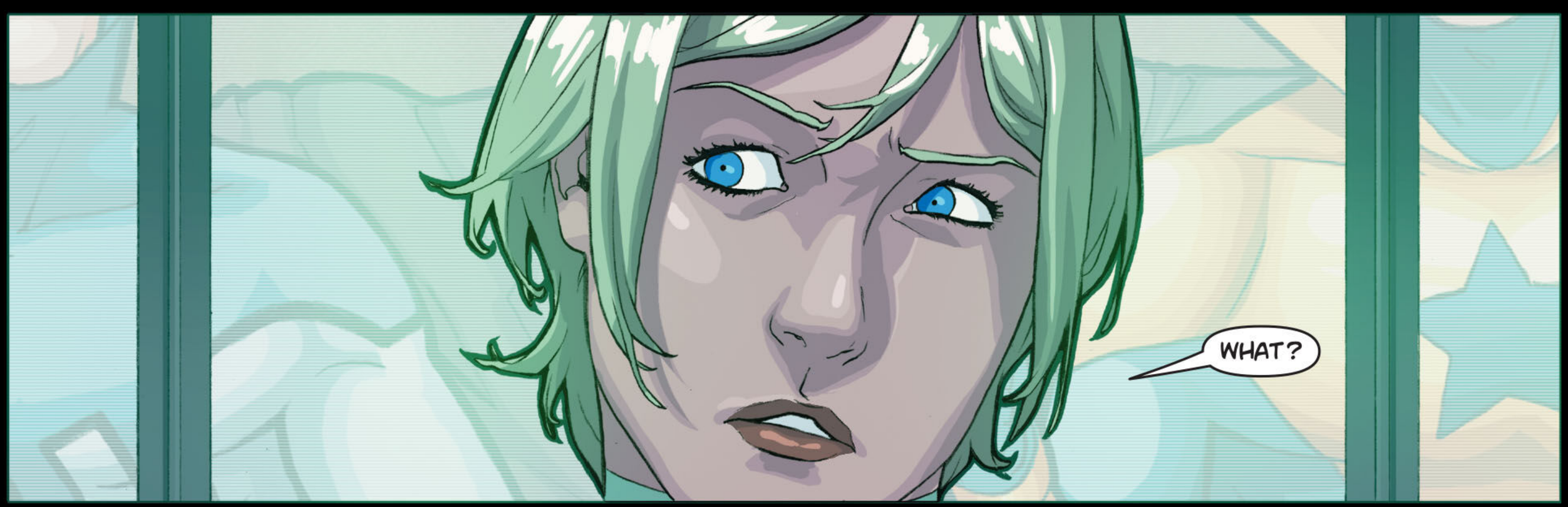

TED KORD SHOT HIMSELF.
NO. HE DIDN'T.

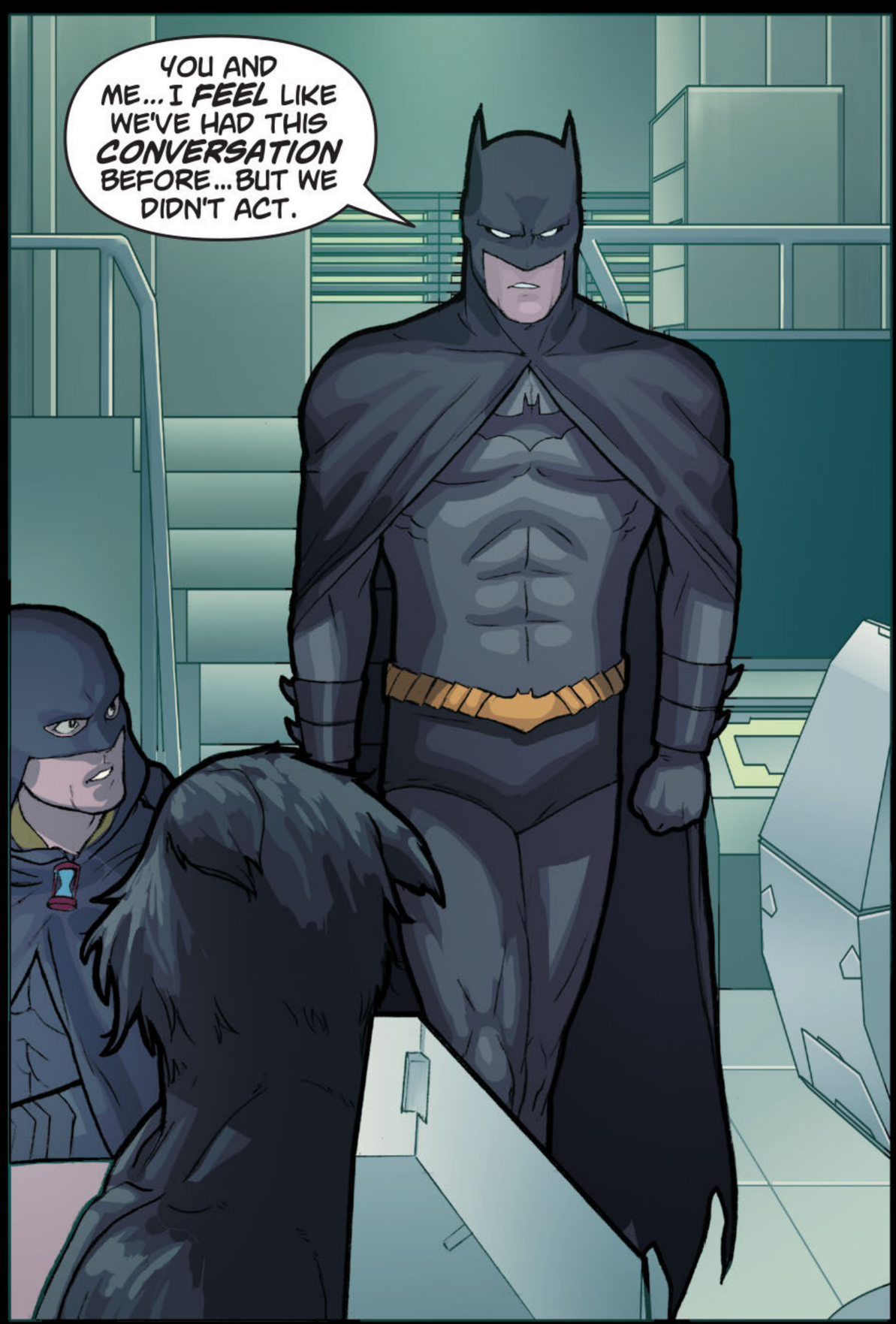

YOU SOUND CRAZY.
I KNOW THAT! DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW-- THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS.
BOOSTER GOLD REMEMBERS-- HE CAME TO ME, AND I ACTED THE SAME AS ALL OF YOU!

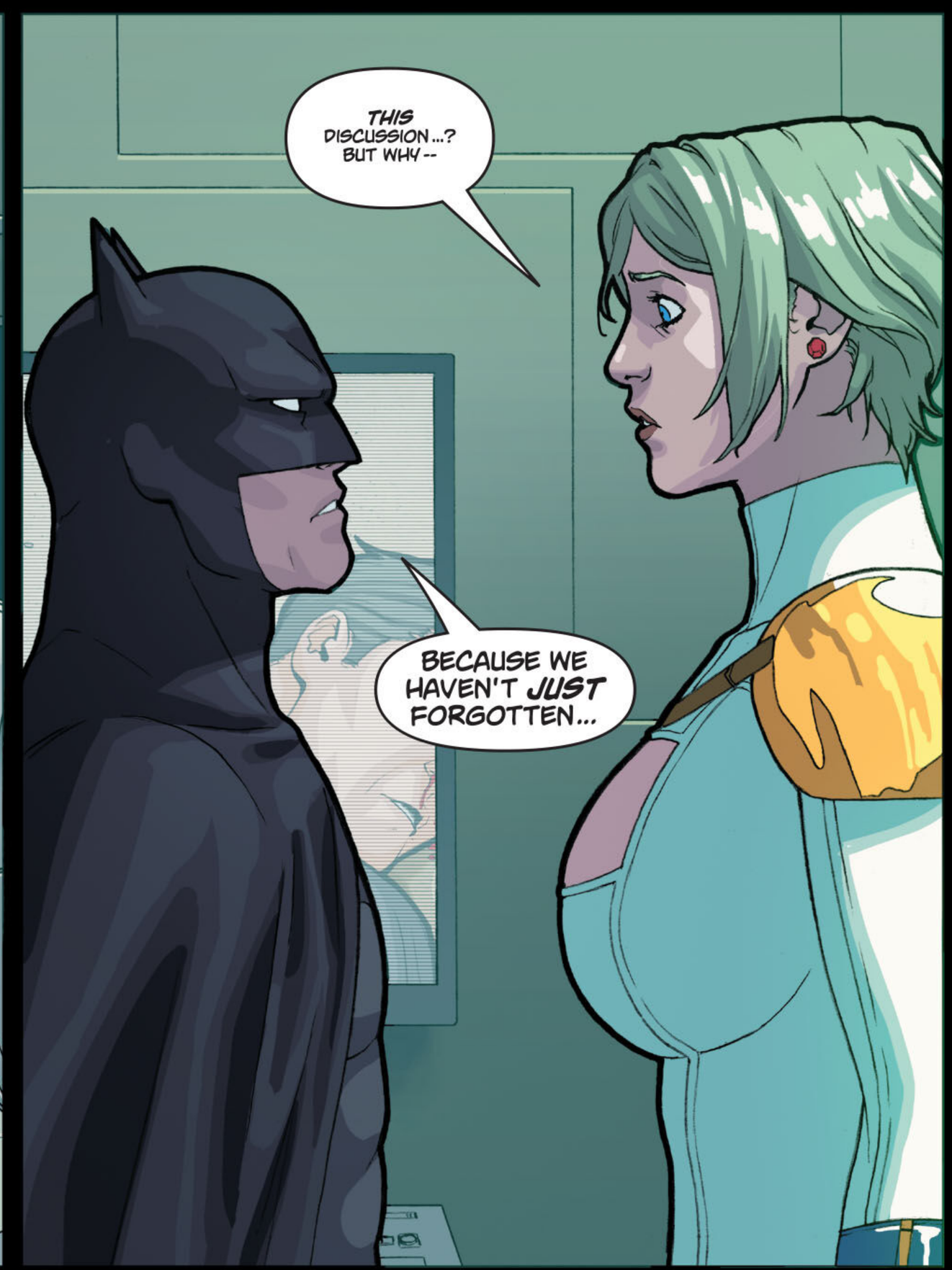

"BOOSTER GOLD. CAPTAIN ATOM. FIRE. ICE AND NOW ME. WE ALL REMEMBER.
"SEE A PATTERN?"


NEED YOU TO JUST...TAKE THIS SMALL LEAP...AND TRUST ME.


I TRUST YOU.
AND... AND WE'VE DONE THIS BEFORE.

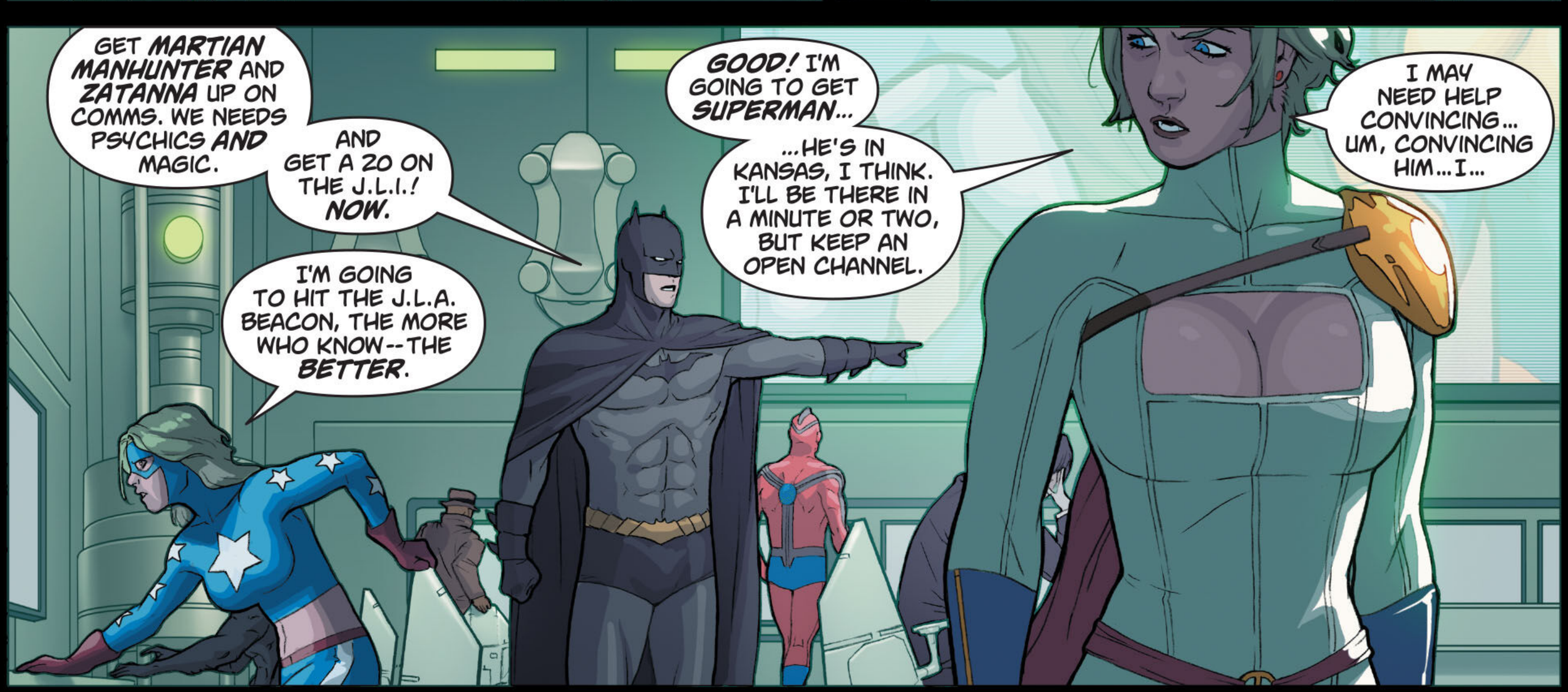

WHAT?

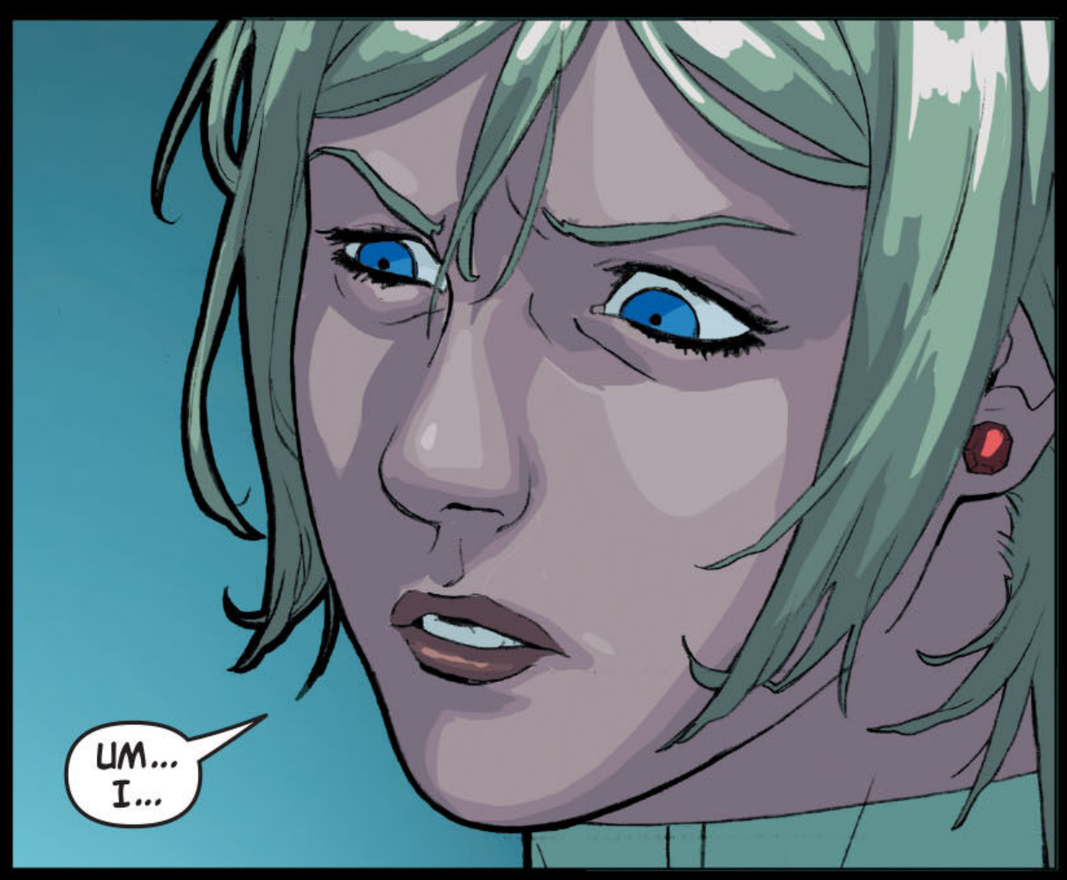

YOU AND ME... I FEEL LIKE WE'VE HAD THIS CONVERSATION BEFORE... BUT WE DIDN'T ACT.

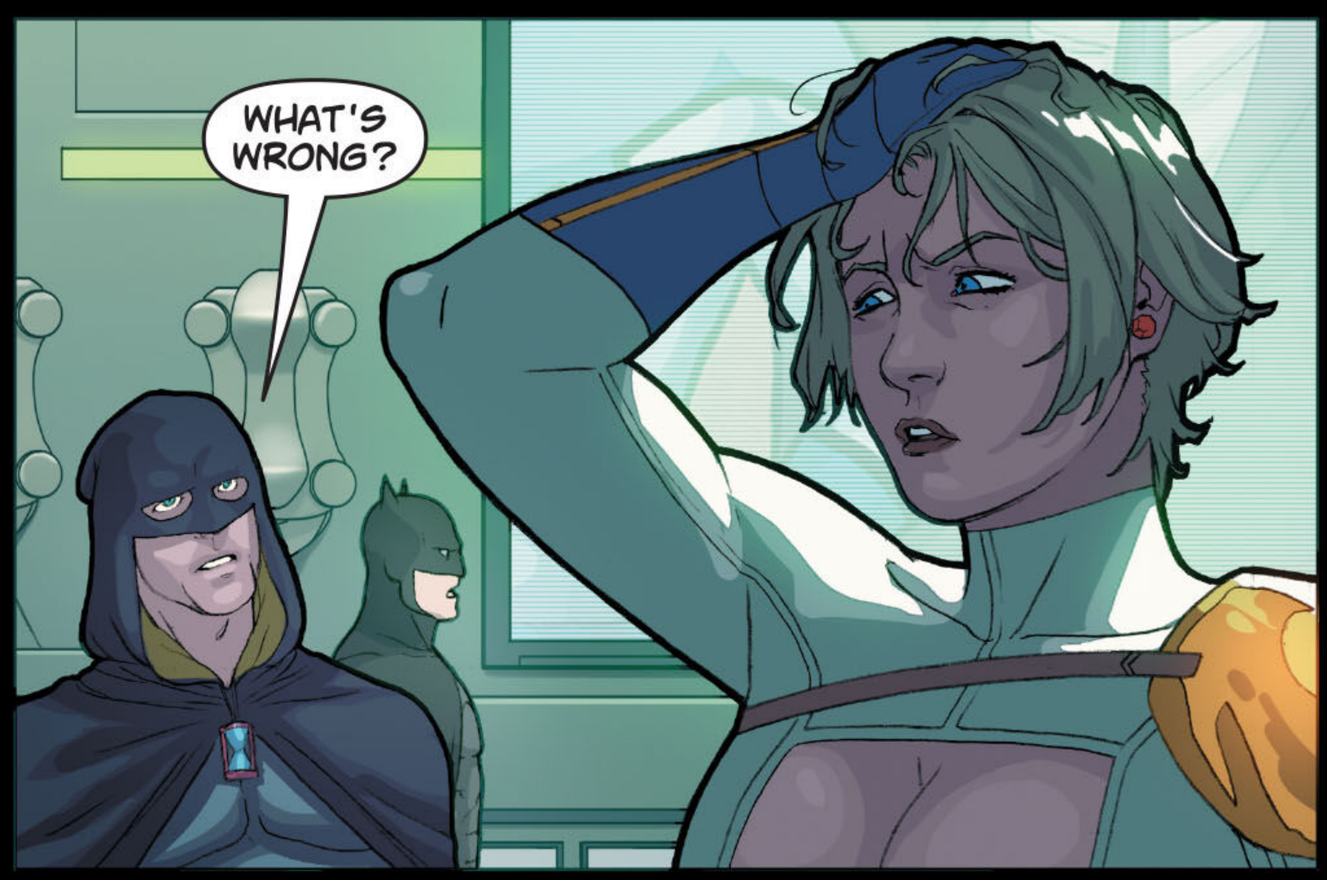

THIS DISCUSSION...? BUT WHY --
BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T JUST FORGOTTEN...

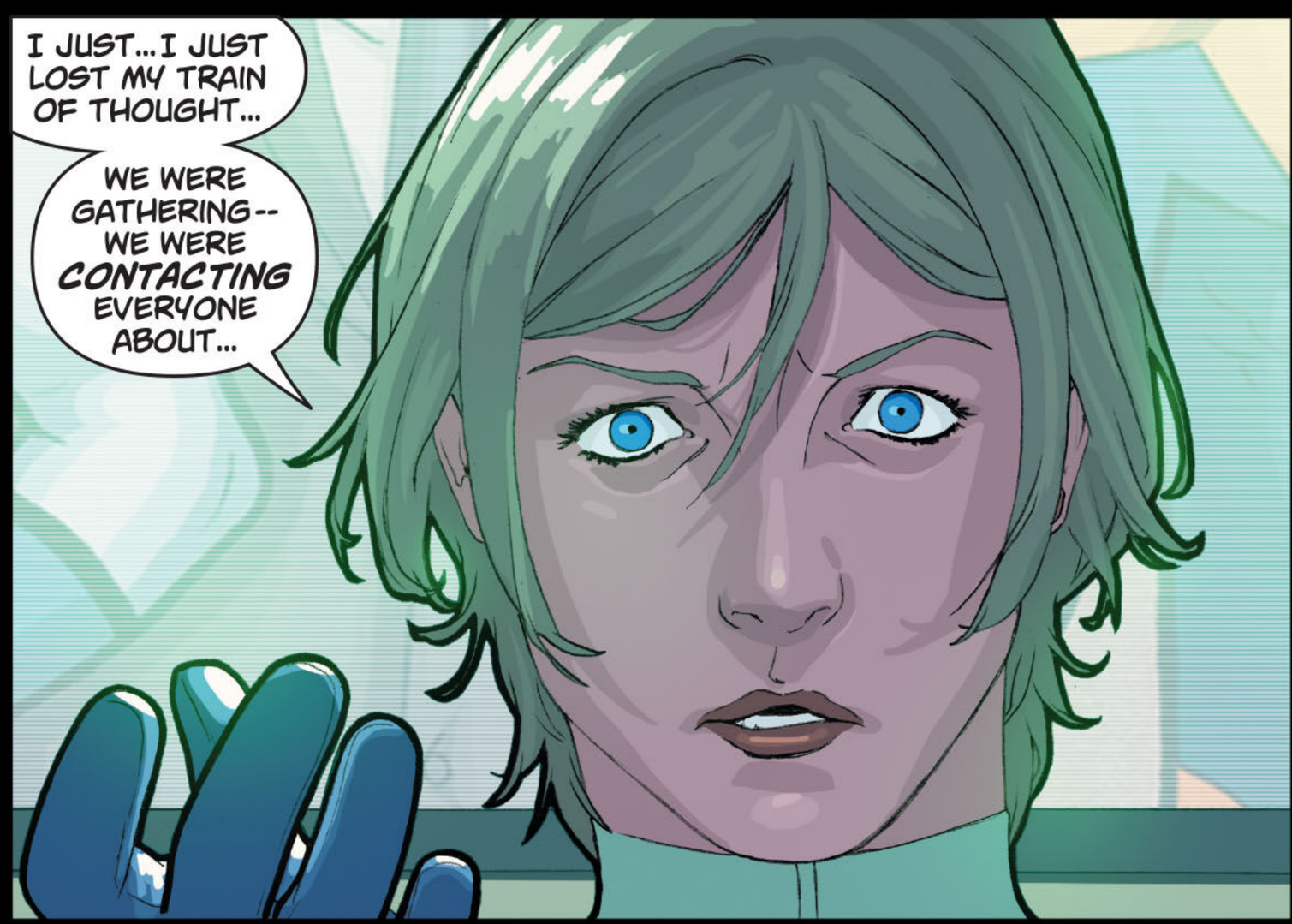
...WE KEEP FORGETTING.

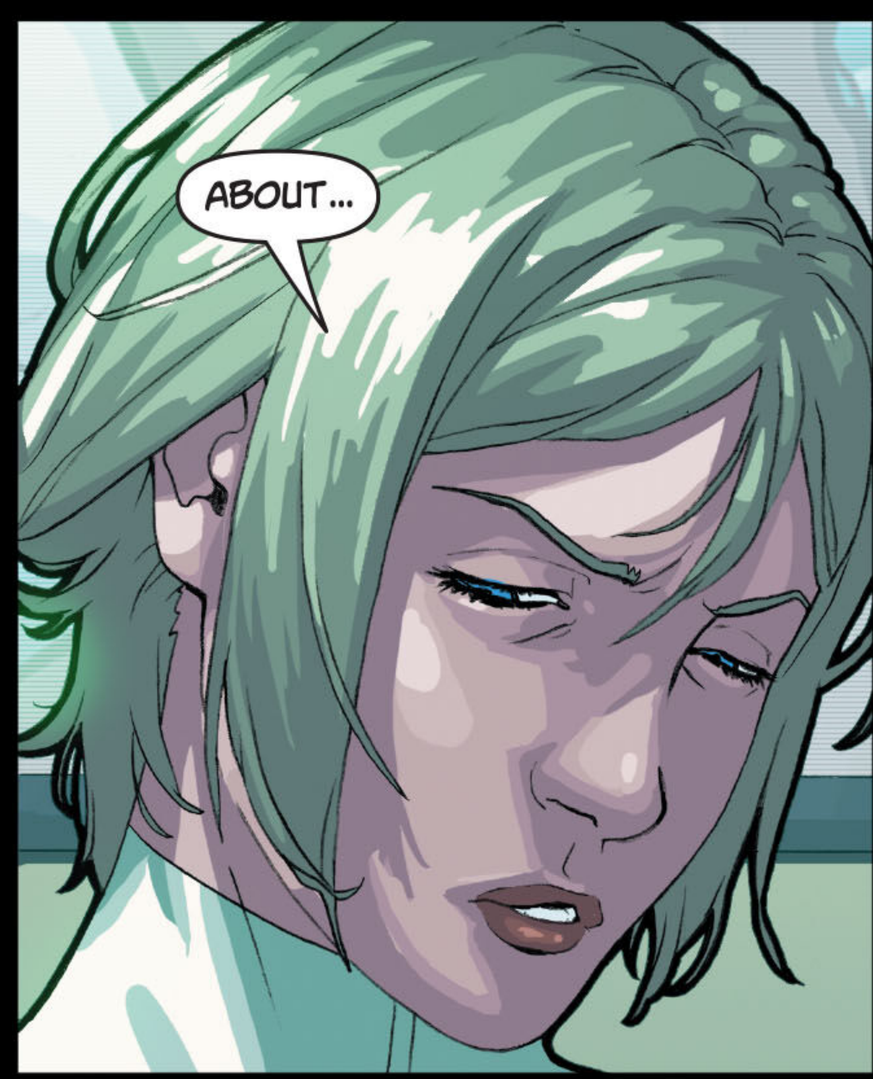
WHAT IF HE'S RIGHT?
WHAT DOES THIS "MAX" WANT?
DOES THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH CAPTAIN ATOM KILLING MAGOG? IF HE REMEMBERS TOO, THEN--
MAYBE HE WAS SET UP.
THAT MAKES A LOT MORE SENSE THAN ATOM KILLING HIM--
--AND CAUSING THE DEATHS OF A THOUSAND PEOPLE IN CHICAGO.


GET MARTIAN MANHUNTER AND ZATANNA UP ON COMMS. WE NEEDS PSYCHICS AND MAGIC.
AND GET A 20 ON THE J.L.I.! NOW.
I'M GOING TO HIT THE J.L.A. BEACON, THE MORE WHO KNOW--THE BETTER.
GOOD! I'M GOING TO GET SUPERMAN...
...HE'S IN KANSAS, I THINK. I'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE OR TWO, BUT KEEP AN OPEN CHANNEL.
I MAY NEED HELP CONVINCING... UM, CONVINCING HIM...I...


UM... I...

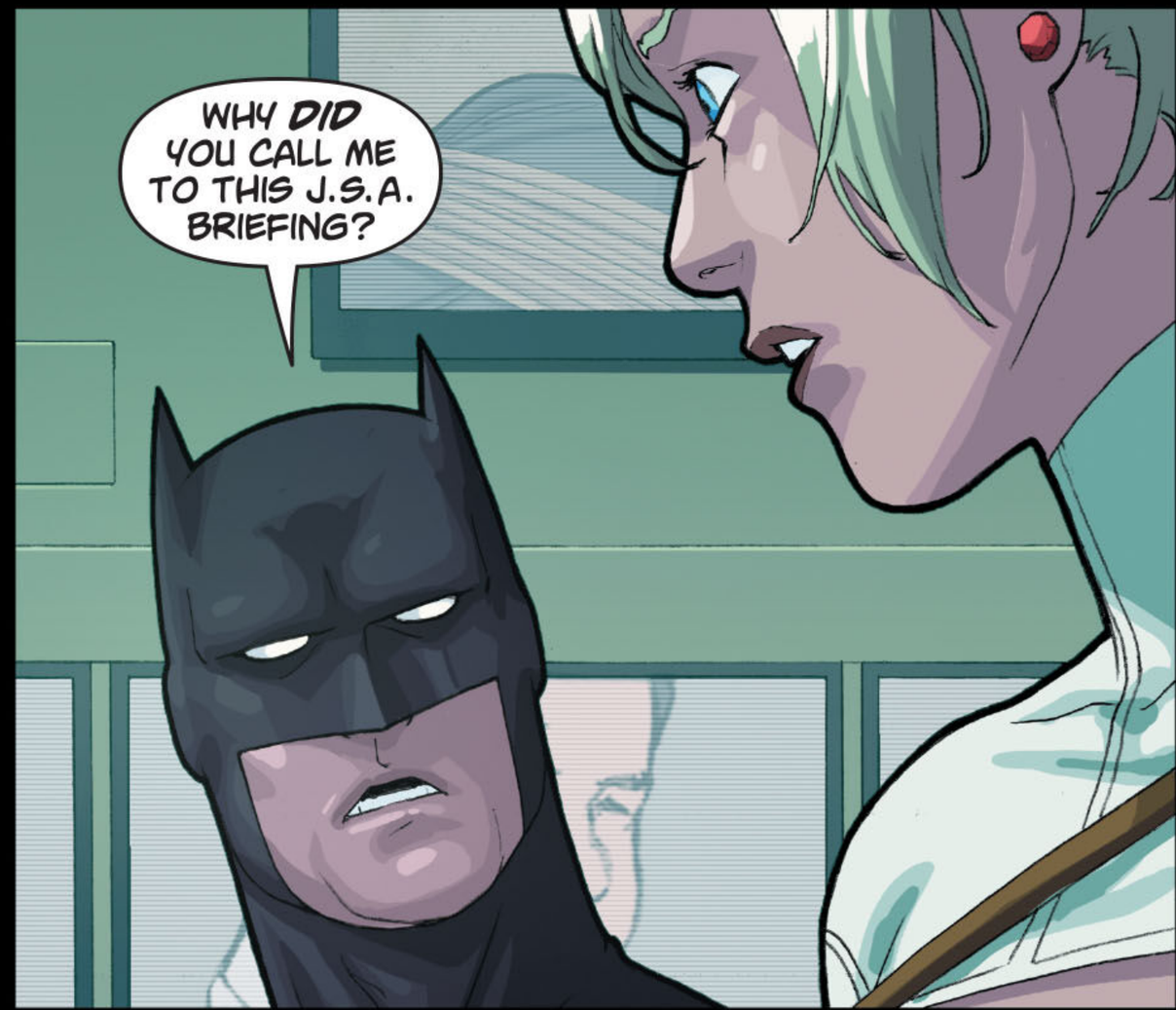

WHAT'S WRONG?

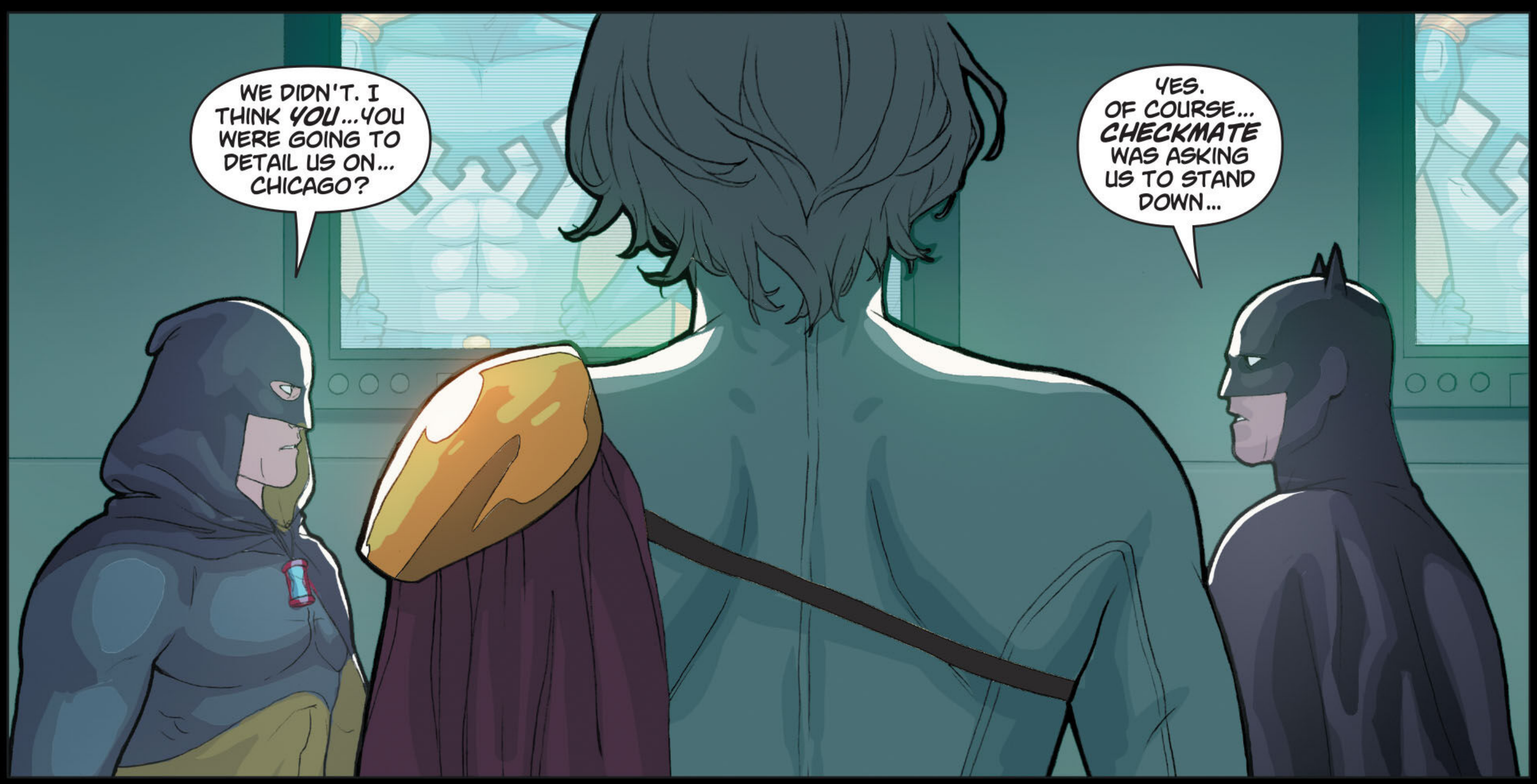
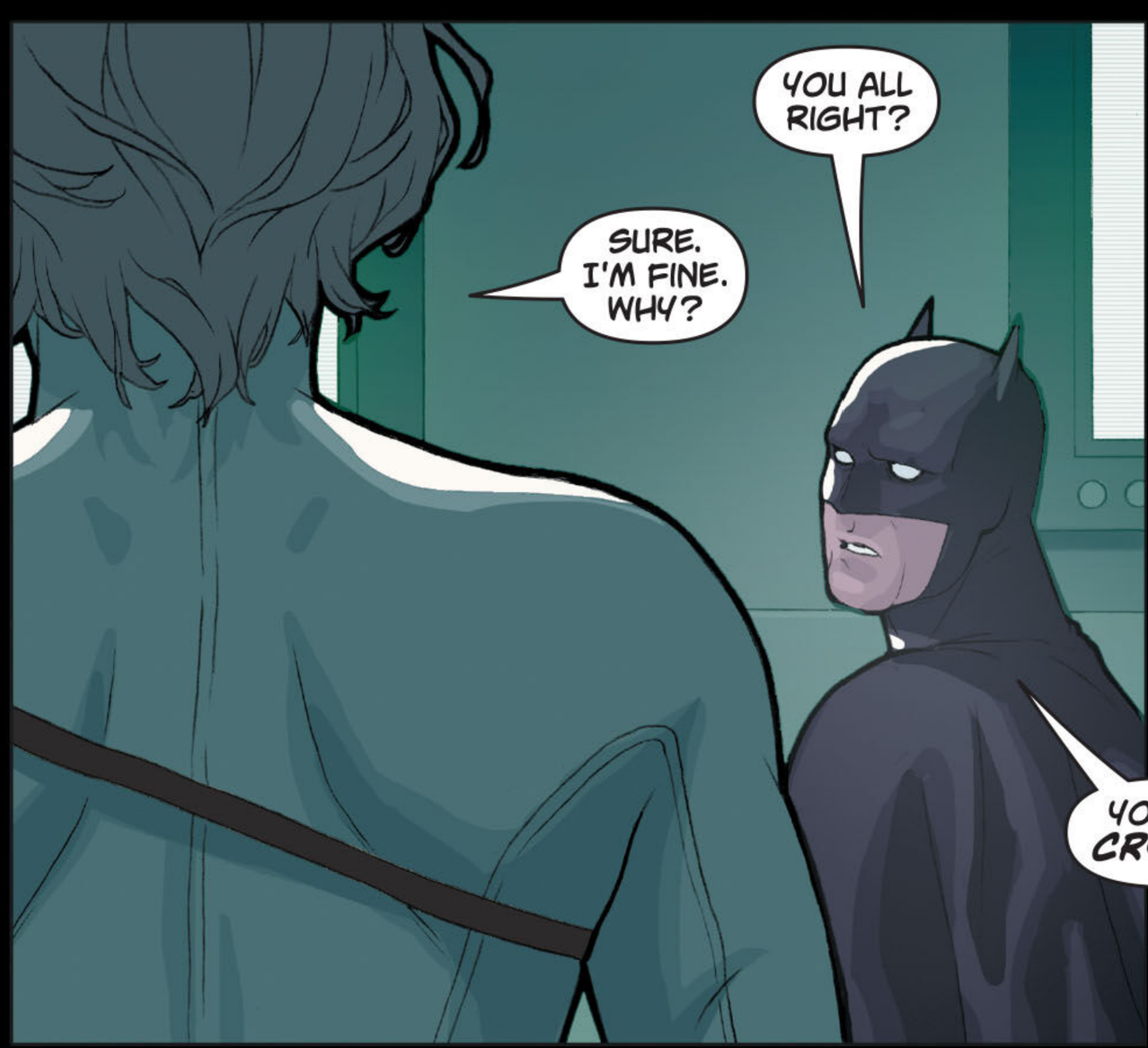
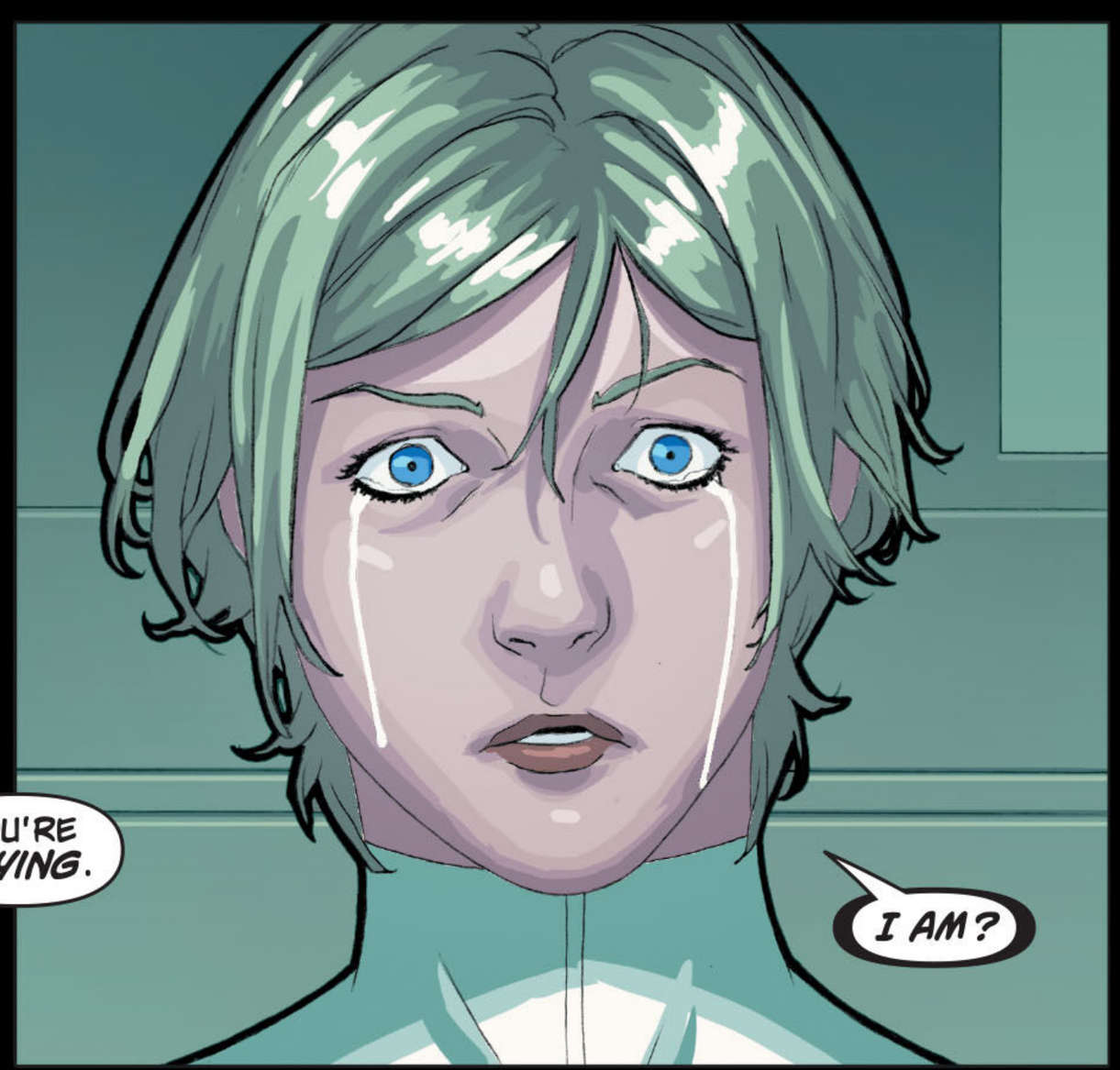

I JUST...I JUST LOST MY TRAIN OF THOUGHT...
WE WERE GATHERING-- WE WERE CONTACTING EVERYONE ABOUT...


ABOUT...

WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
SORRY?
YOU WERE...

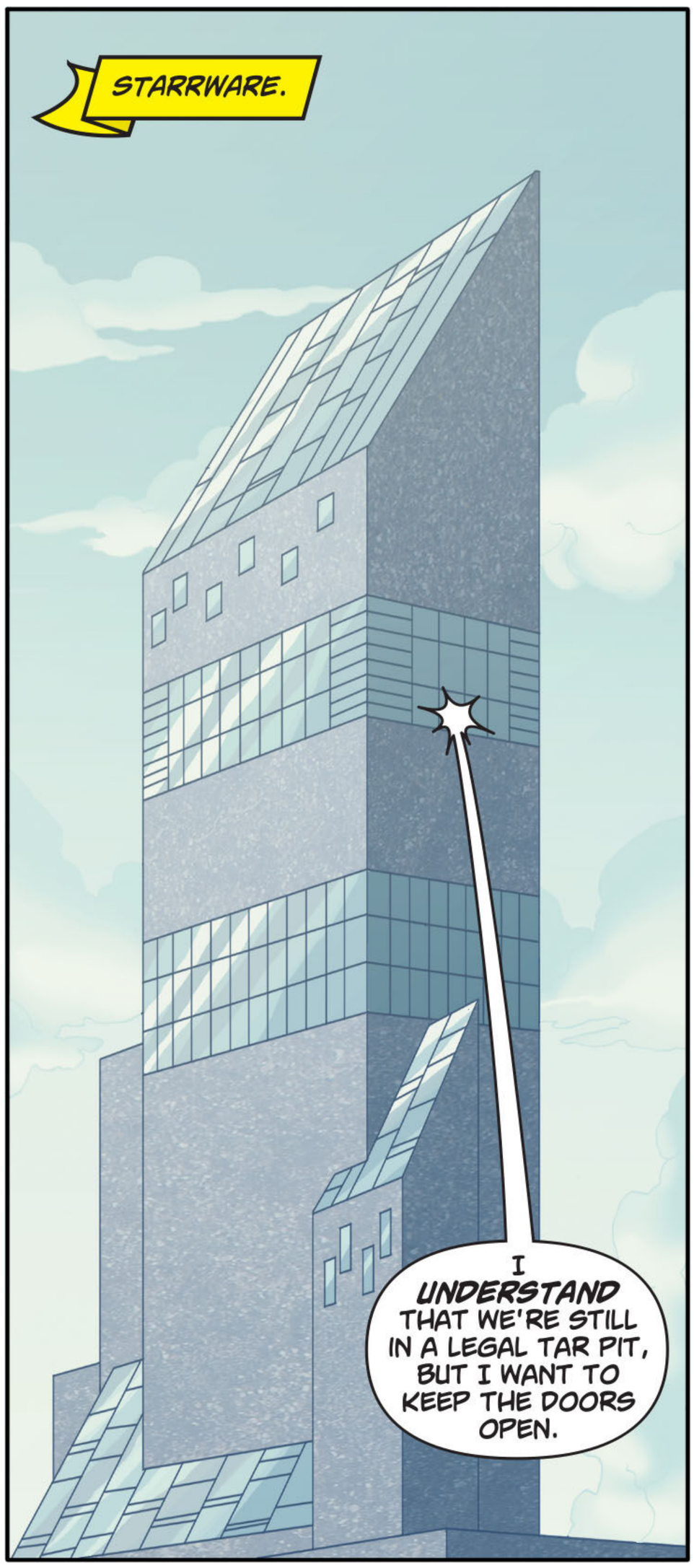
I FORGOT WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY.


WHY DID YOU CALL ME TO THIS J.S.A. BRIEFING?

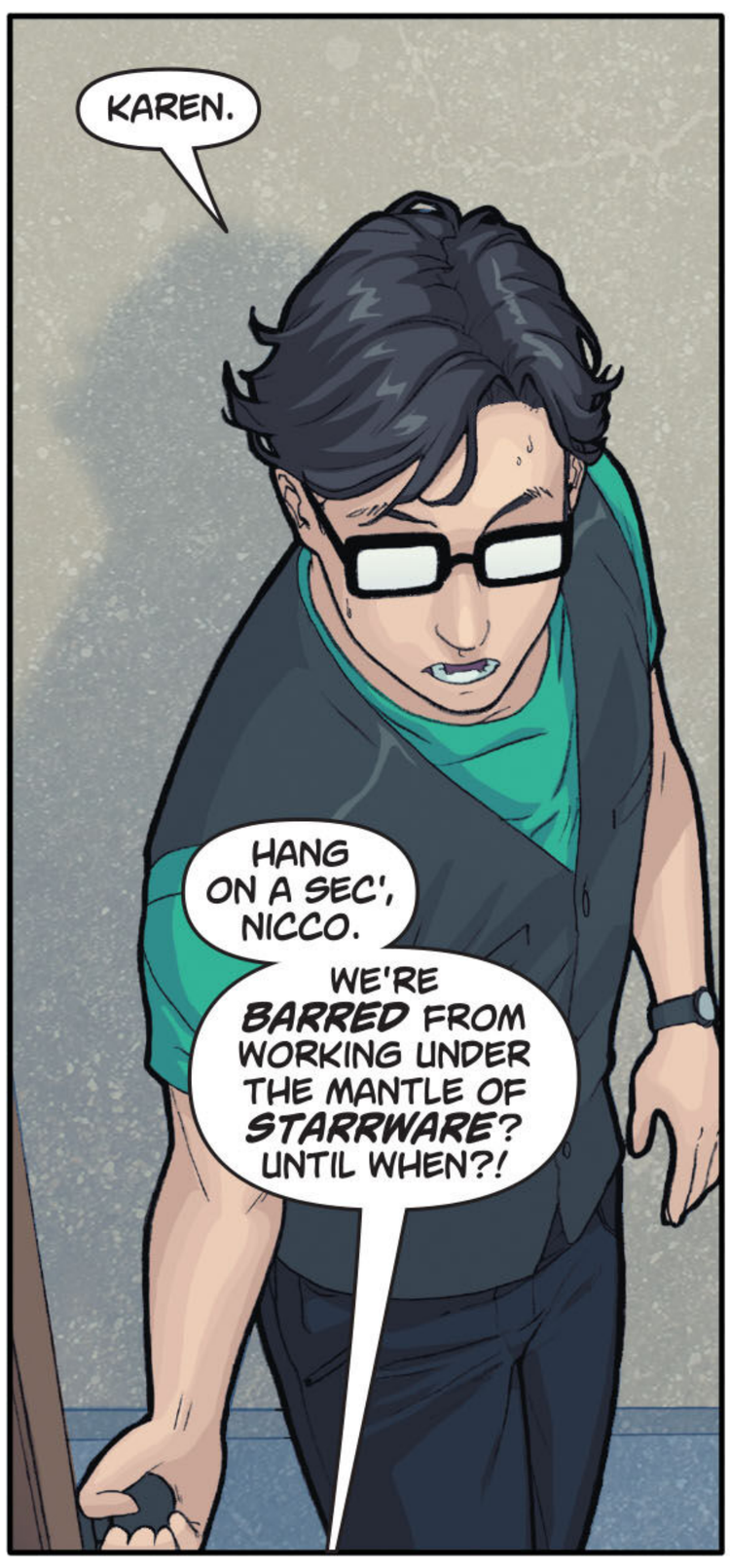

WE DIDN'T. I THINK YOU...YOU WERE GOING TO DETAIL US ON... CHICAGO?
YES. OF COURSE... CHECKMATE WAS ASKING US TO STAND DOWN...

YOU ALL RIGHT?
SURE. I'M FINE. WHY?
YOU'RE CRYING.

I AM?

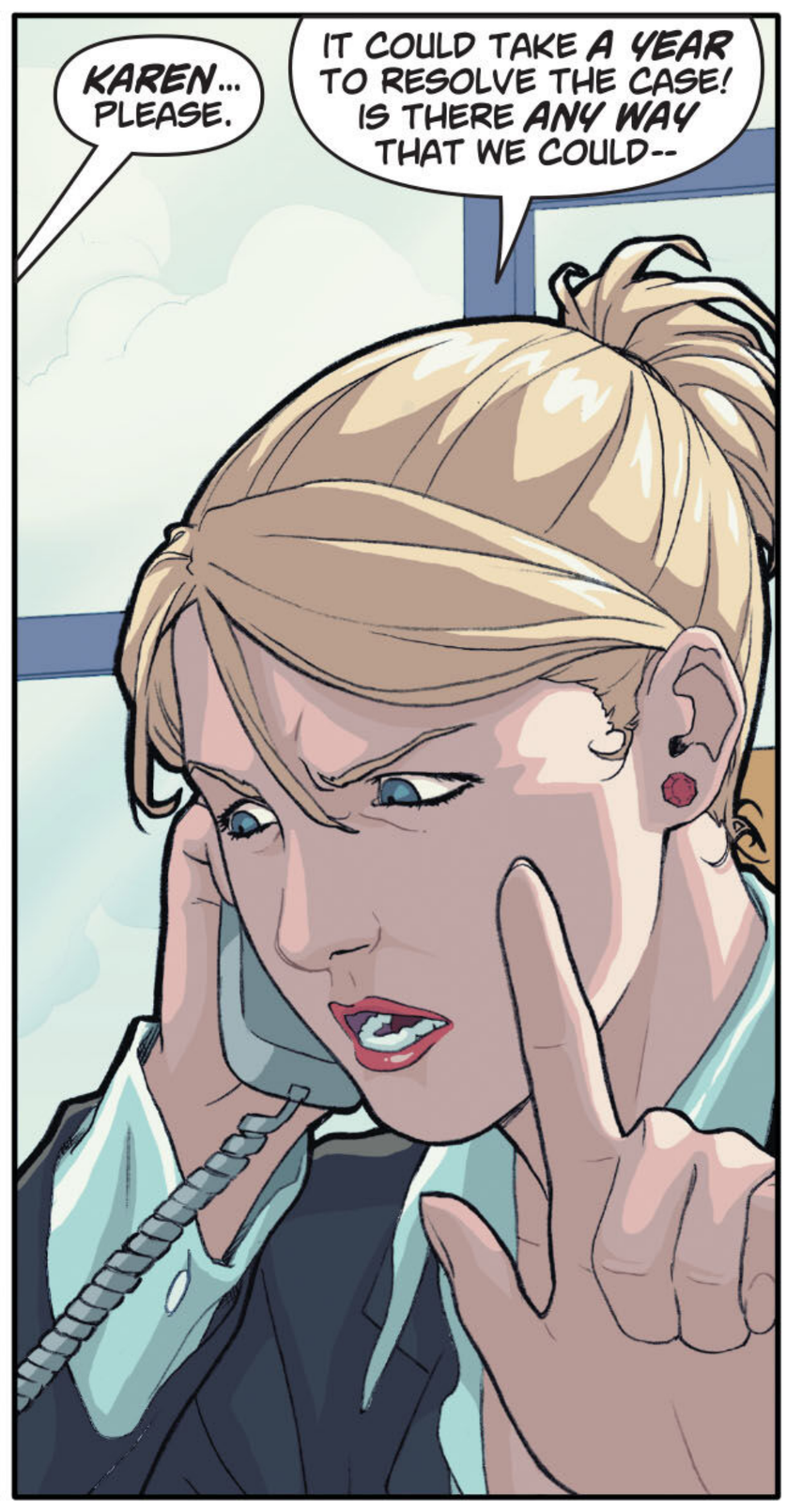
I AM.
THAT'S STRANGE.

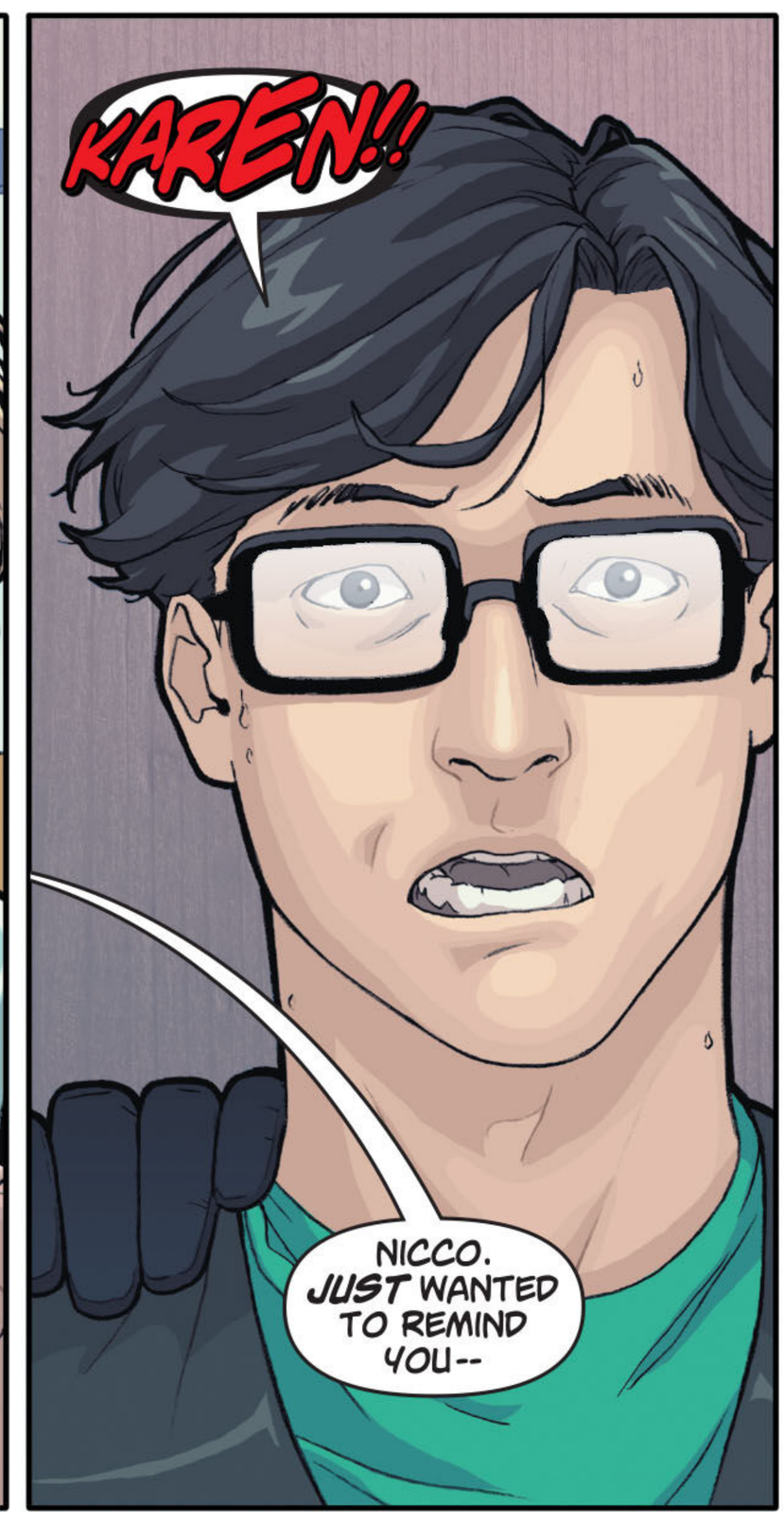
MAGOG WAS POSSIBLY DUPED.
HE THOUGHT HE WAS UNDER ORDERS FROM CHECKMATE.

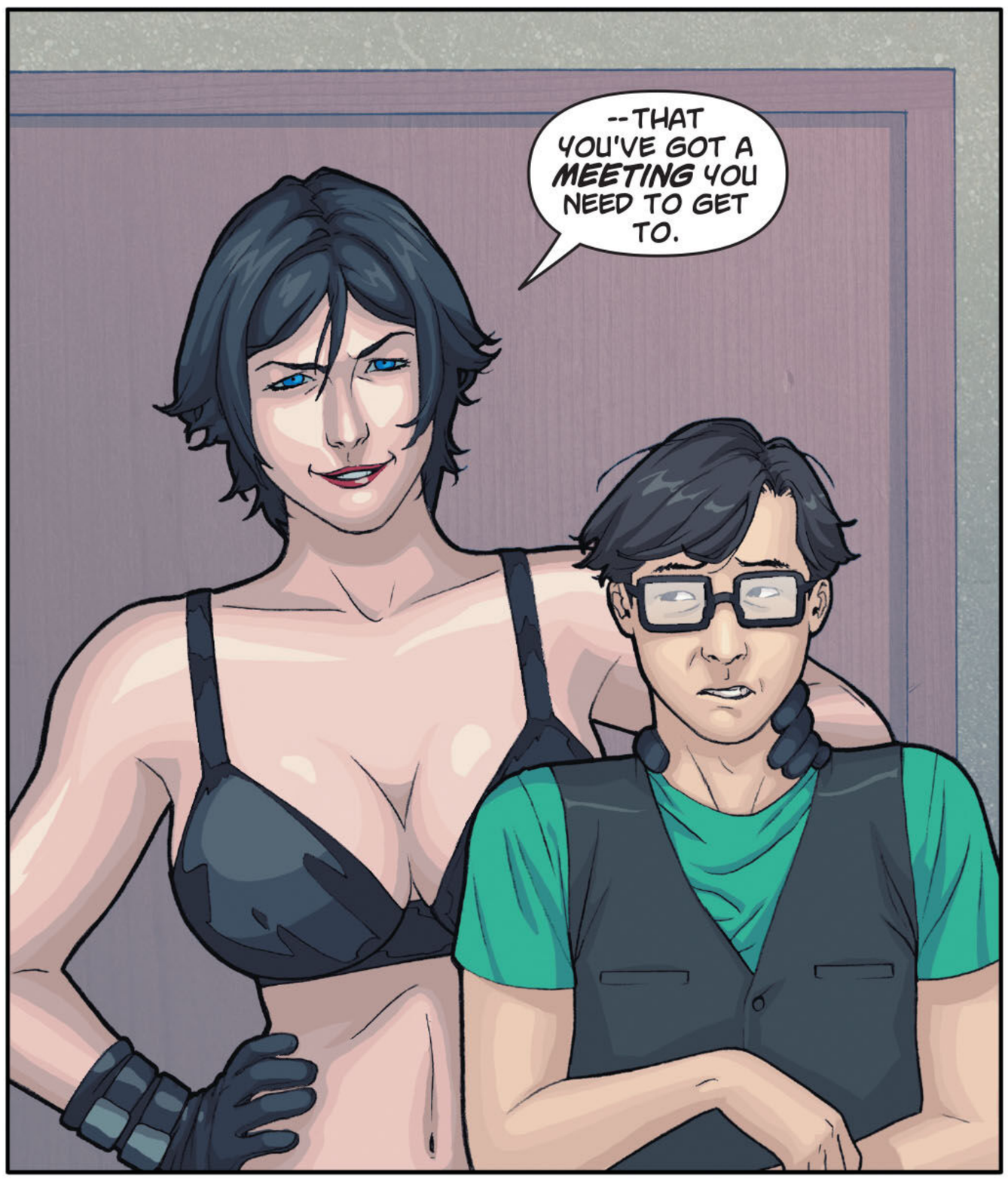

STARRWARE.
I UNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE STILL IN A LEGAL TAR PIT, BUT I WANT TO KEEP THE DOORS OPEN.

I JUST WANT OUR WORK BACK--THE EXPERIMENTS--THE WORKS-IN-PROGRESS, OUR TECH...
I JUST WANT ALL OF OUR WORK BACK SO WE CAN GET BACK TO WORK.
DON'T TELL ME THAT! THEY'RE CONSIDERED FORFEITURES?
AGAIN, I BARELY--! WHAT? A RESTRAINING ORDER?!

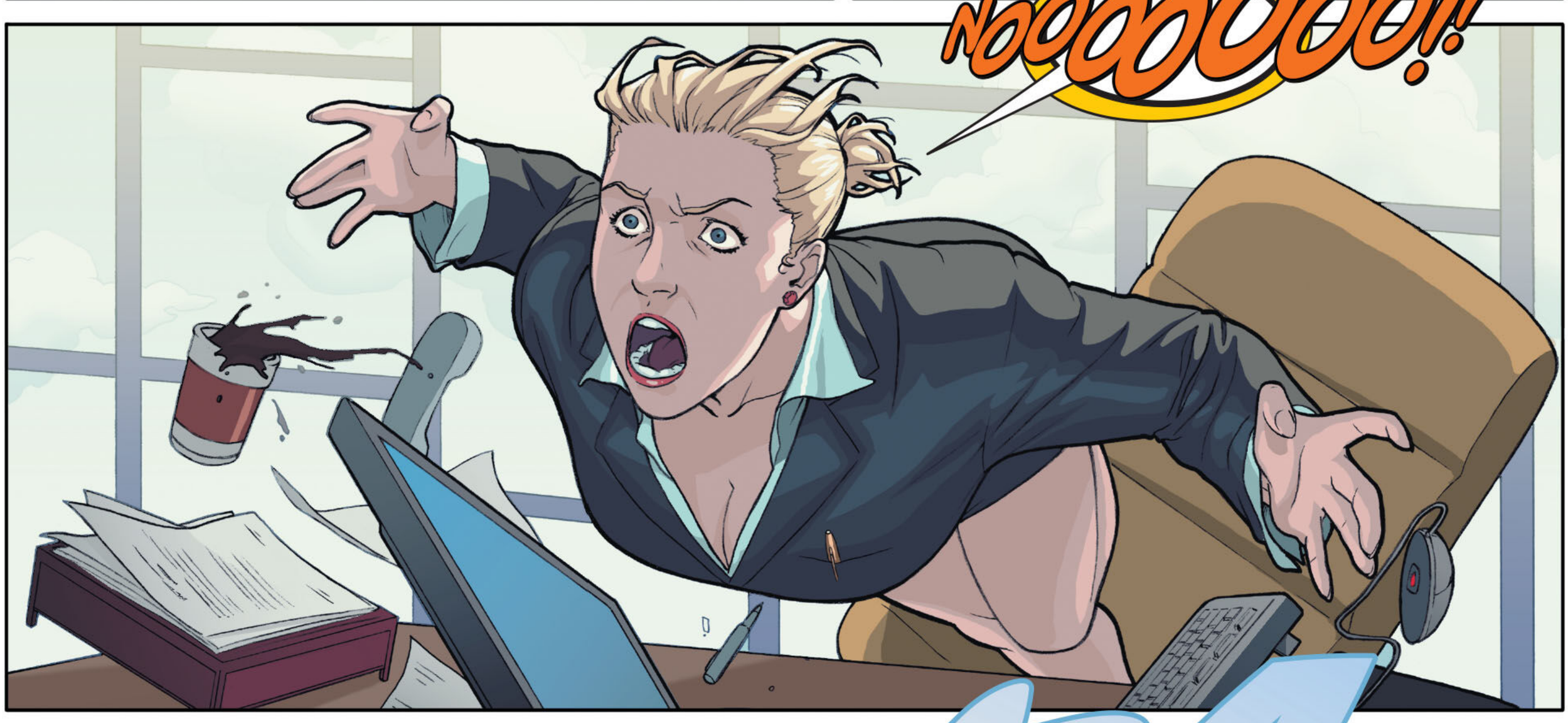

KAREN.
HANG ON A SEC', NICCO.
WE'RE BARRED FROM WORKING UNDER THE MANTLE OF STARRWARE? UNTIL WHEN?!

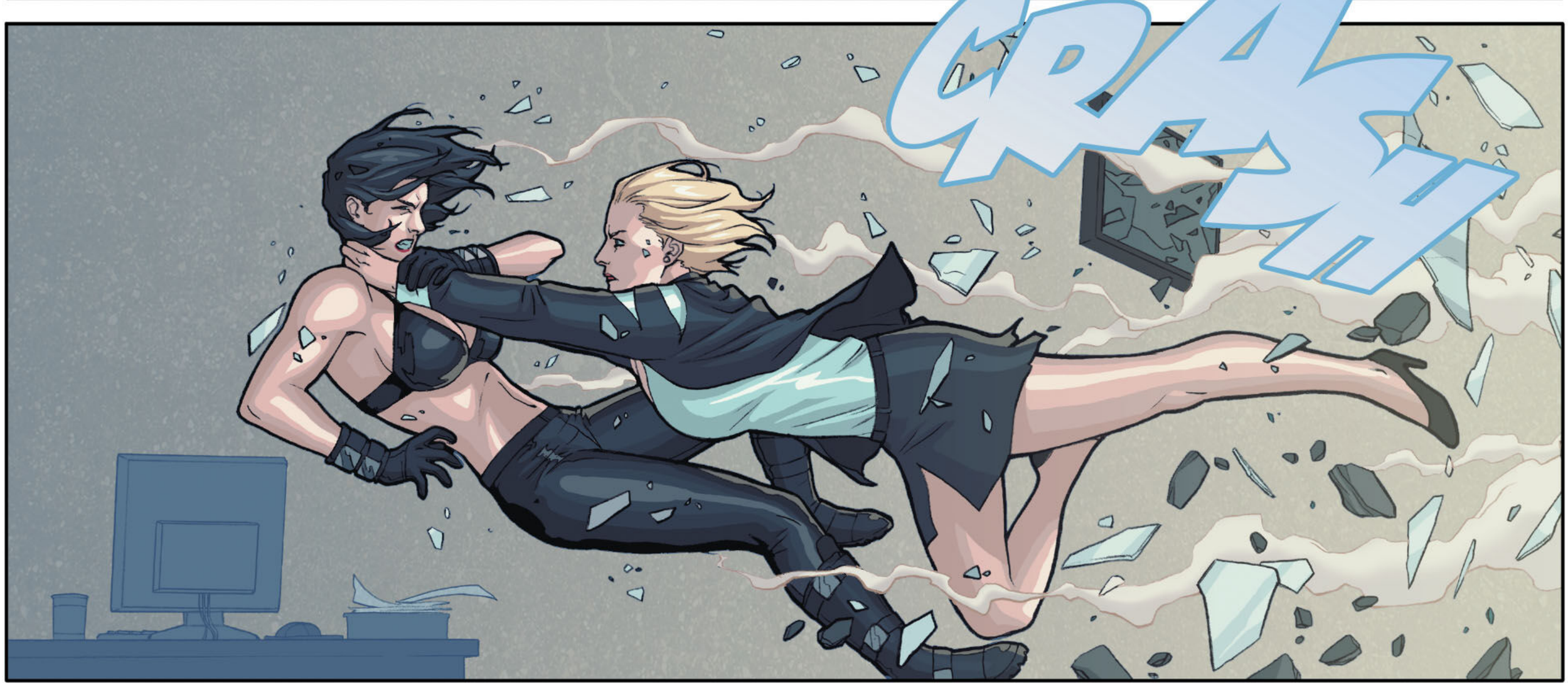

KAREN... PLEASE.
IT COULD TAKE A YEAR TO RESOLVE THE CASE! IS THERE ANY WAY THAT WE COULD--

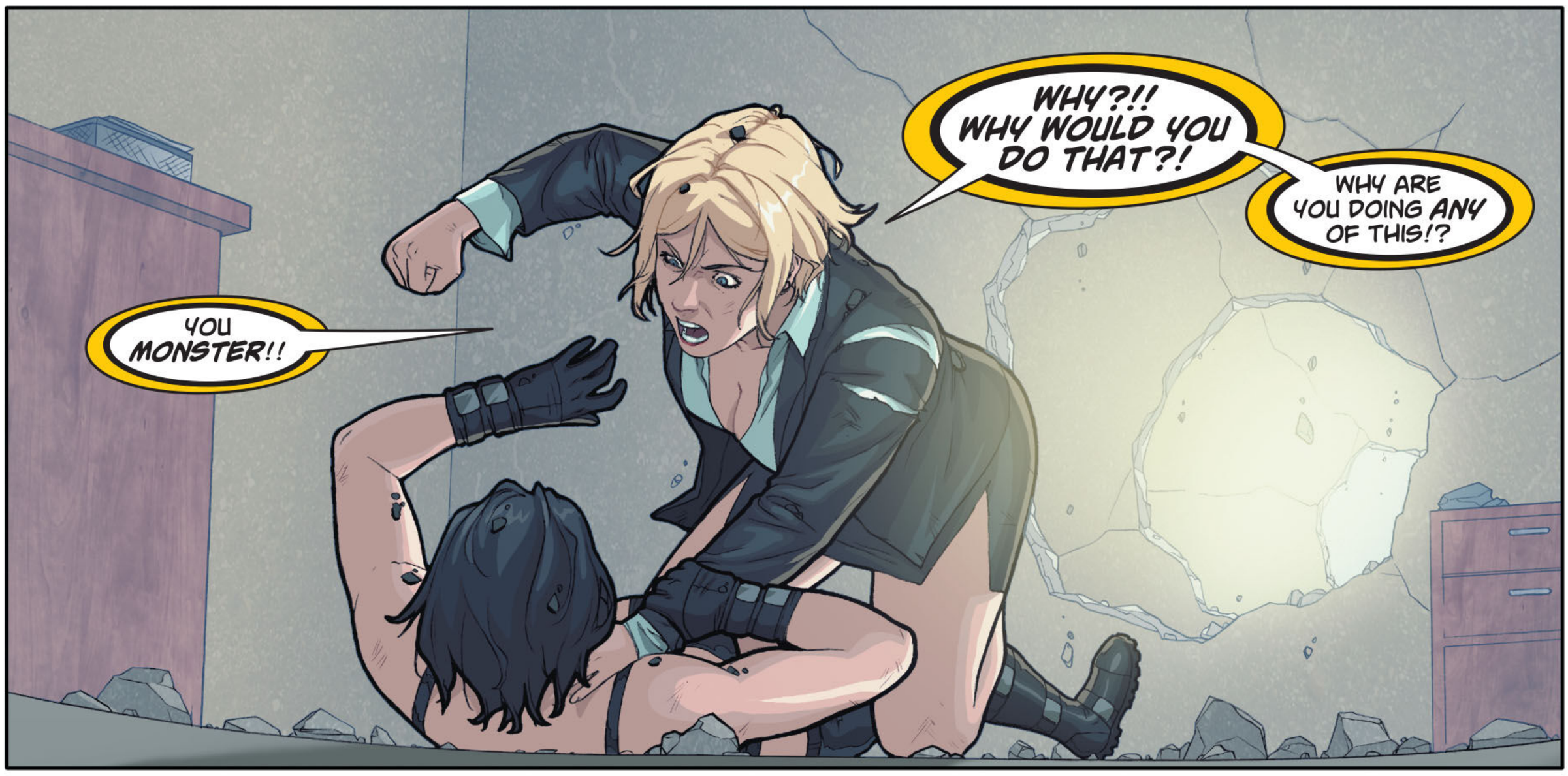
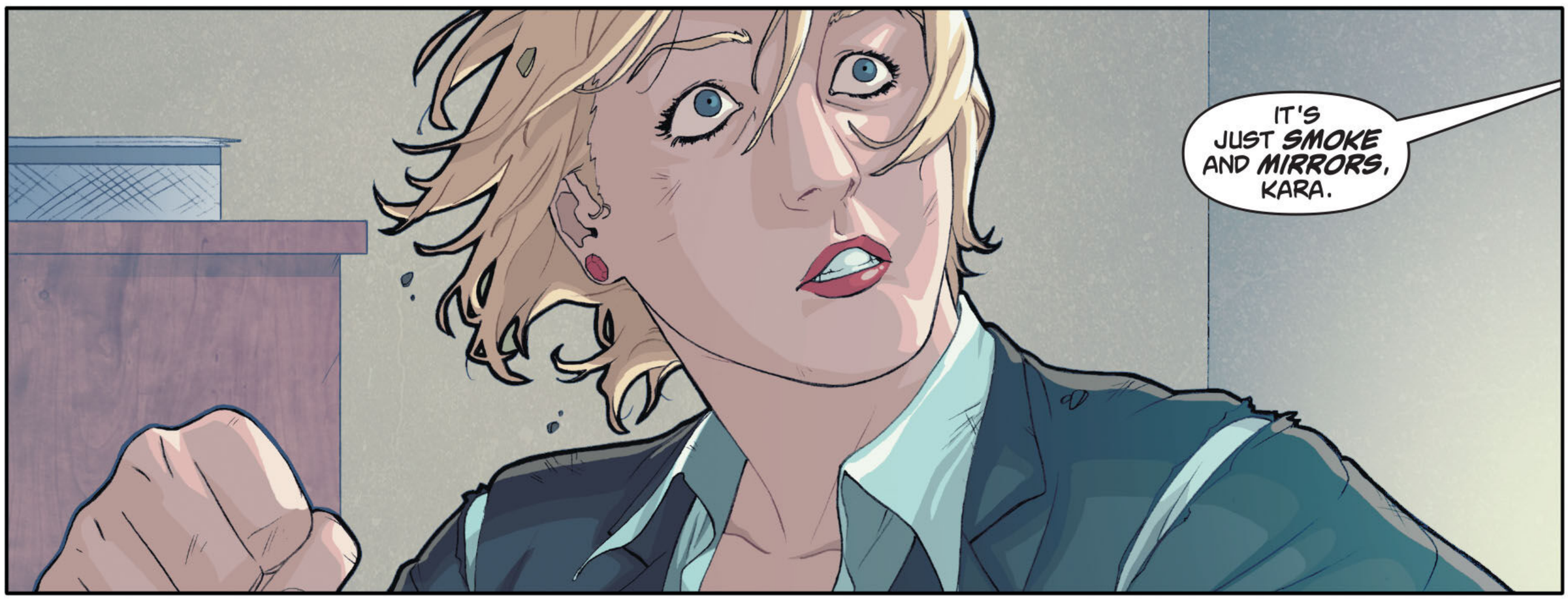
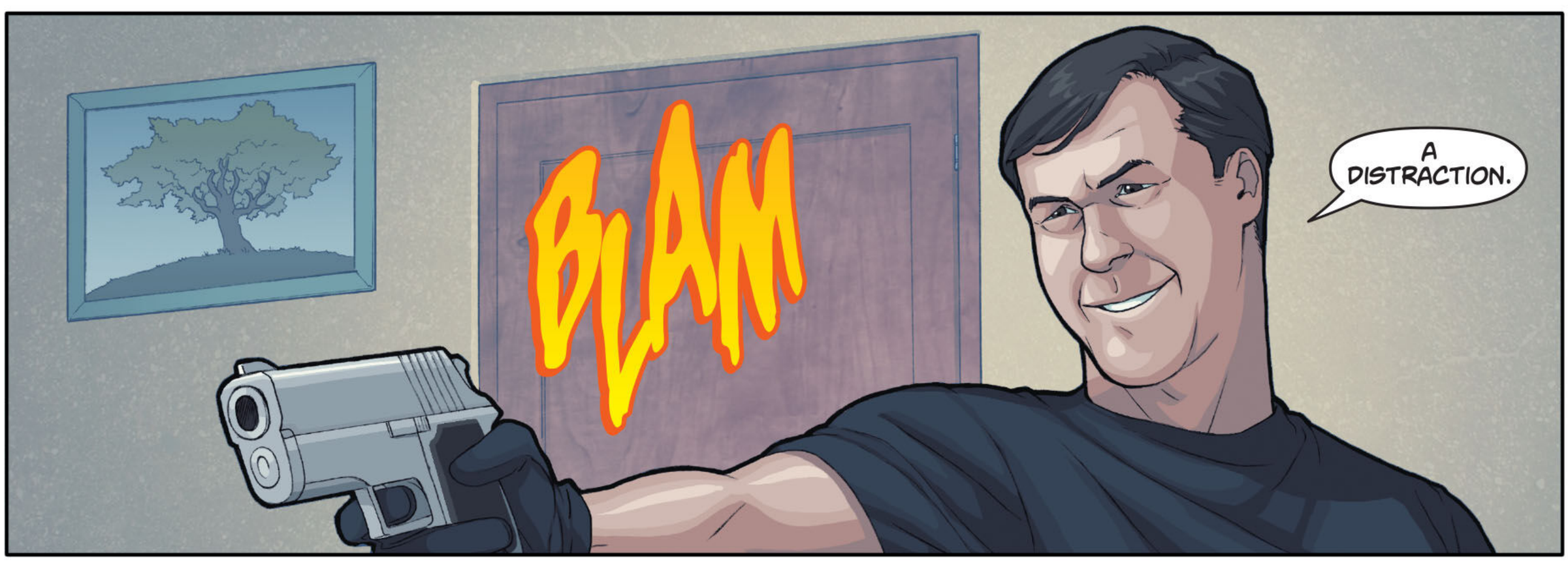
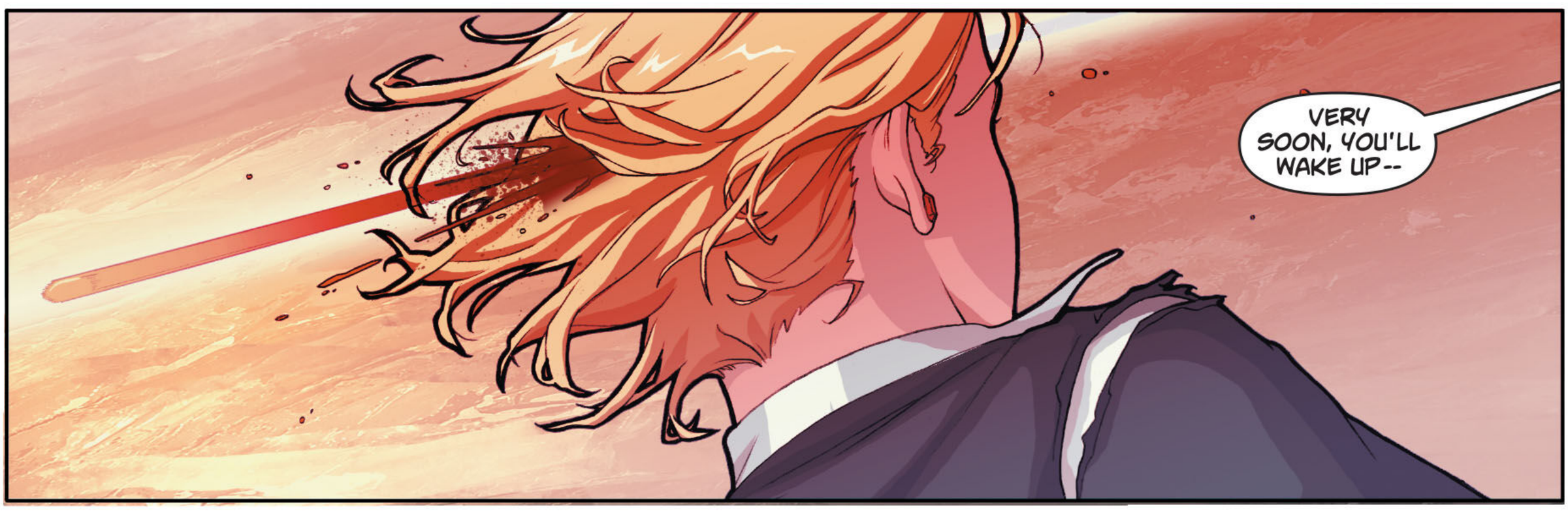

KAREN!!
NICCO. JUST WANTED TO REMIND YOU--

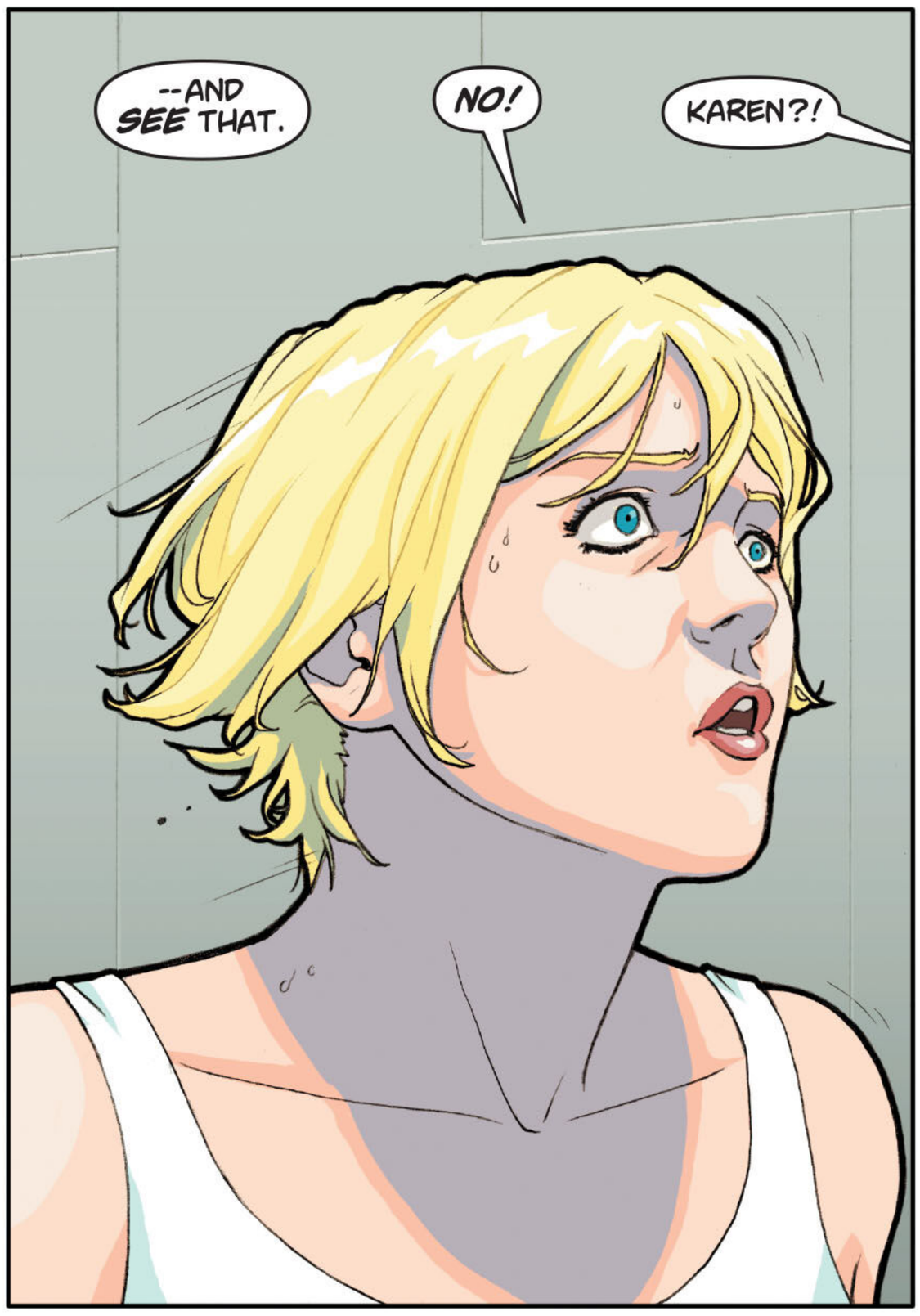

--THAT YOU'VE GOT A MEETING YOU NEED TO GET TO.

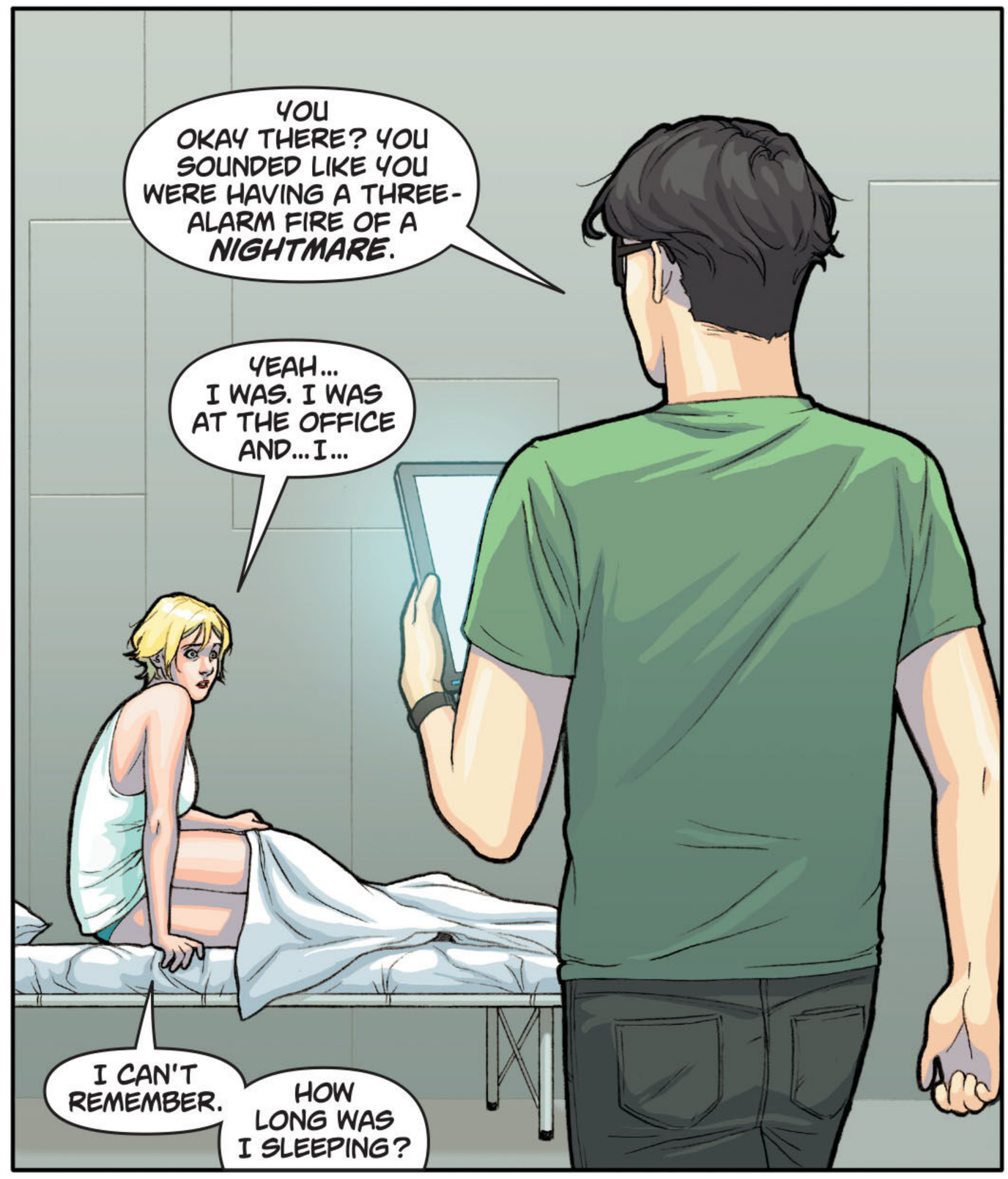
SNAP

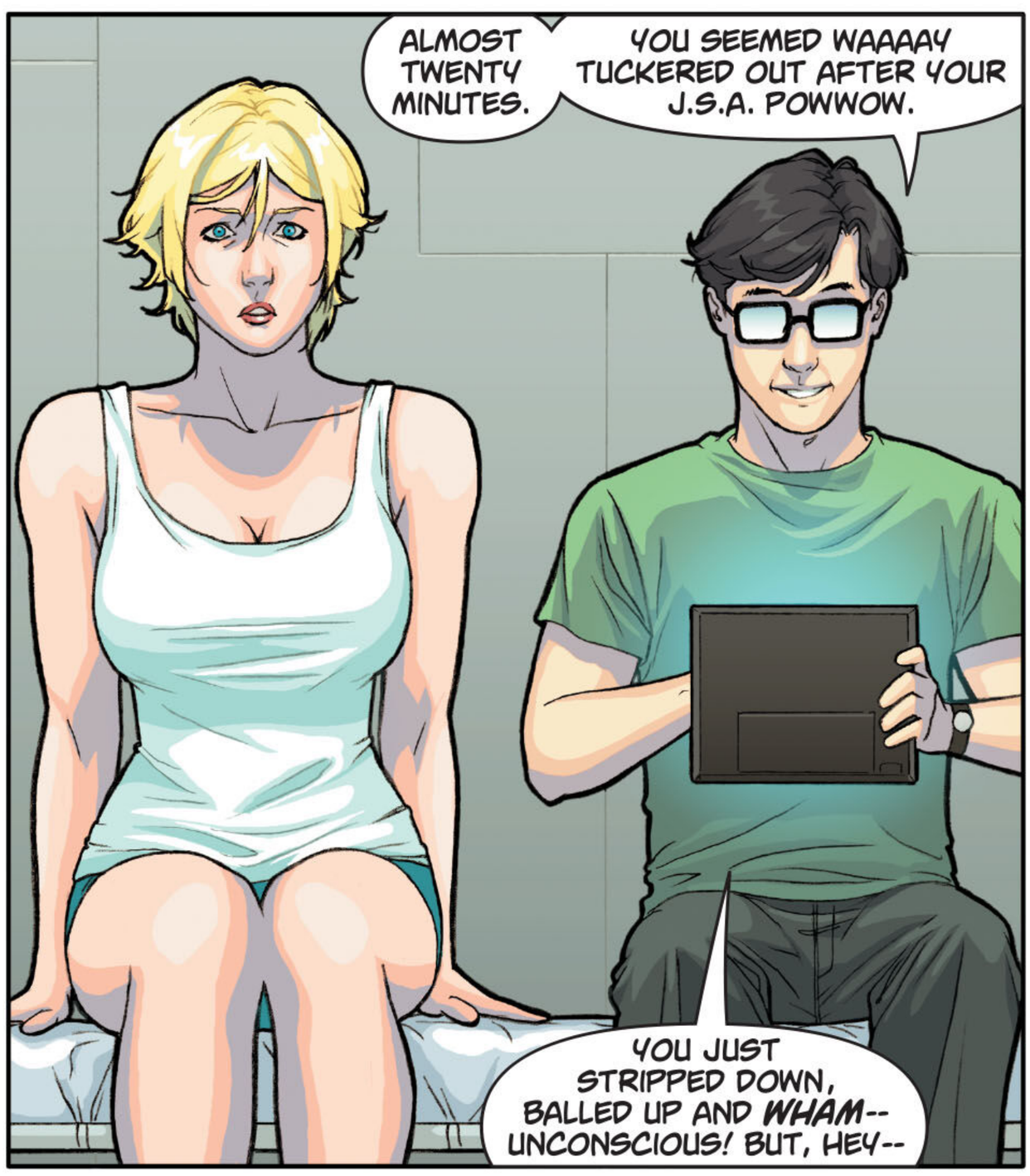

NOOOOOOO!!

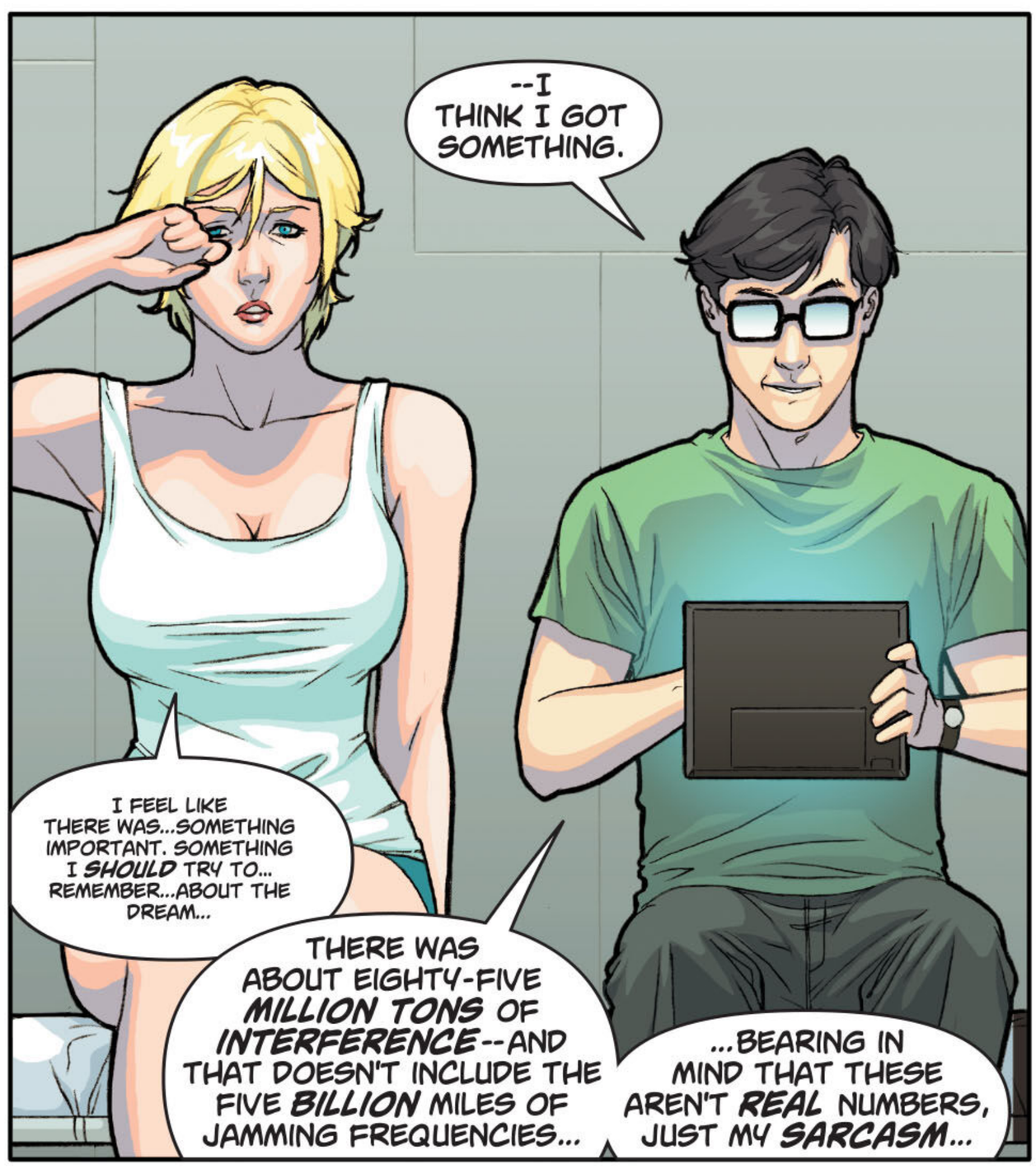

CRAAA

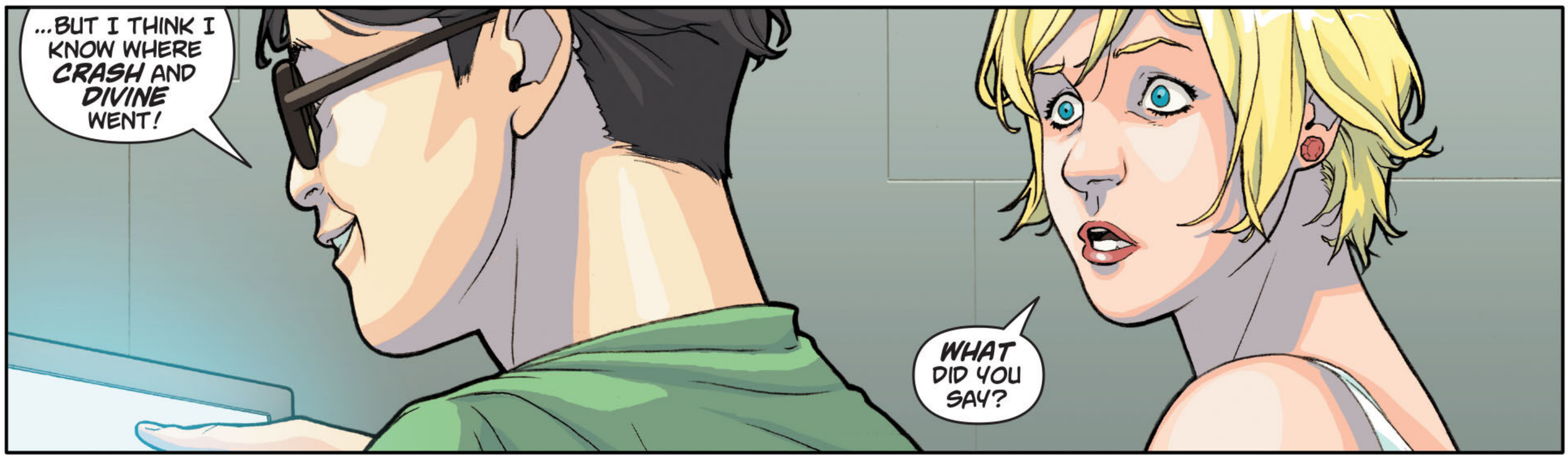

YOU MONSTER!!
WHY?!! WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!
WHY ARE YOU DOING ANY OF THIS!?

IT'S JUST SMOKE AND MIRRORS, KARA.

BLAM
A DISTRACTION.

VERY SOON, YOU'LL WAKE UP--

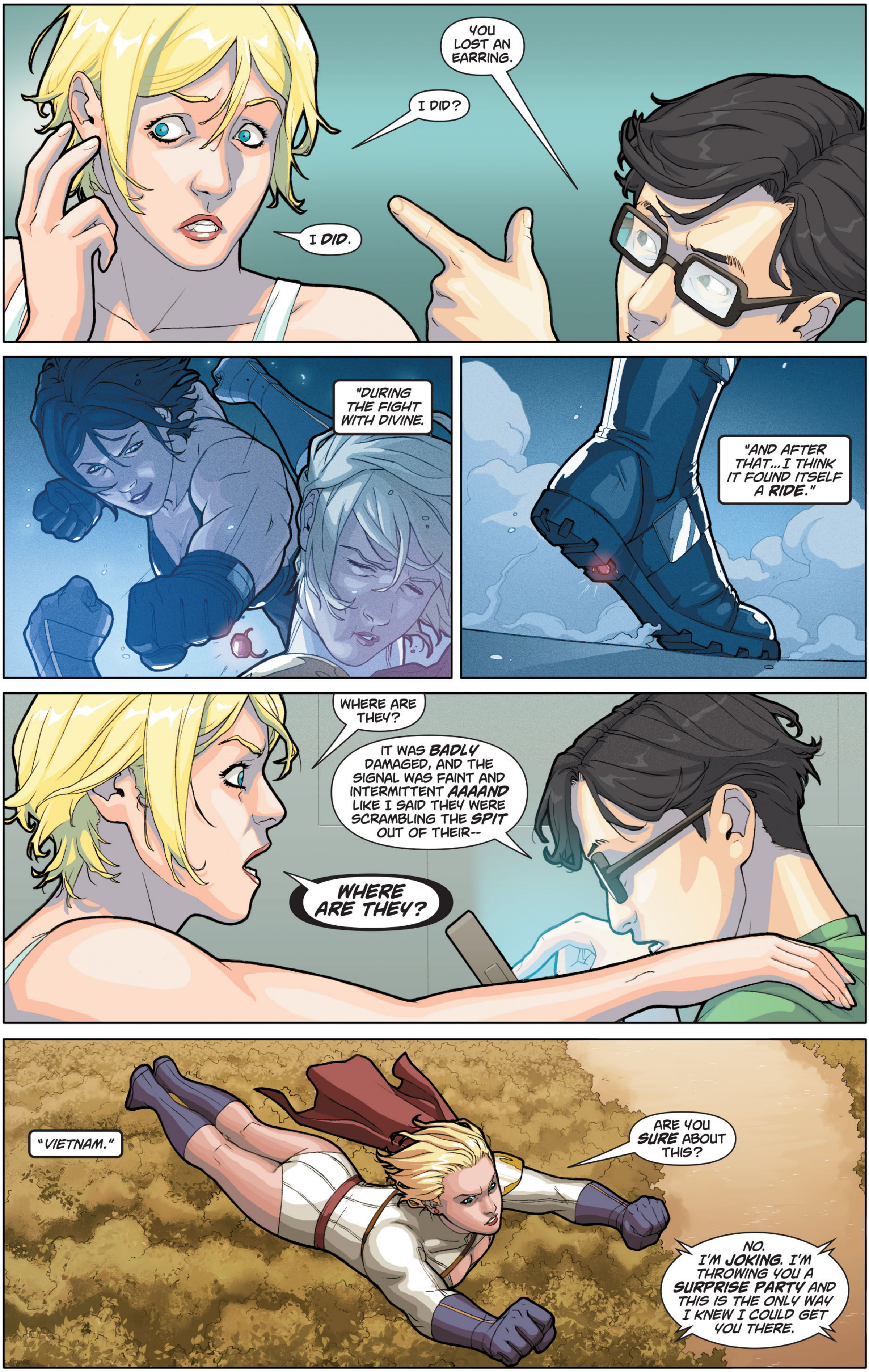

--AND SEE THAT.
NO!
KAREN?!

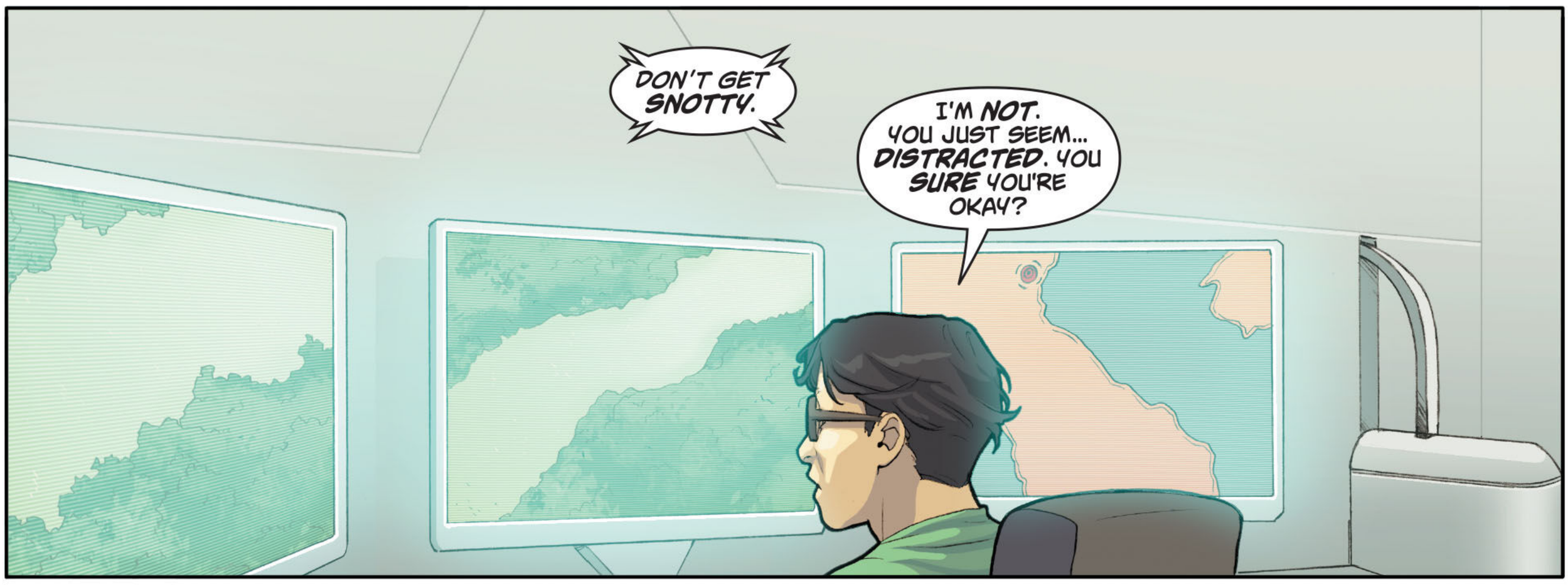

YOU OKAY THERE? YOU SOUNDED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING A THREE-ALARM FIRE OF A NIGHTMARE.
YEAH... I WAS. I WAS AT THE OFFICE AND...I...
I CAN'T REMEMBER.
HOW LONG WAS I SLEEPING?

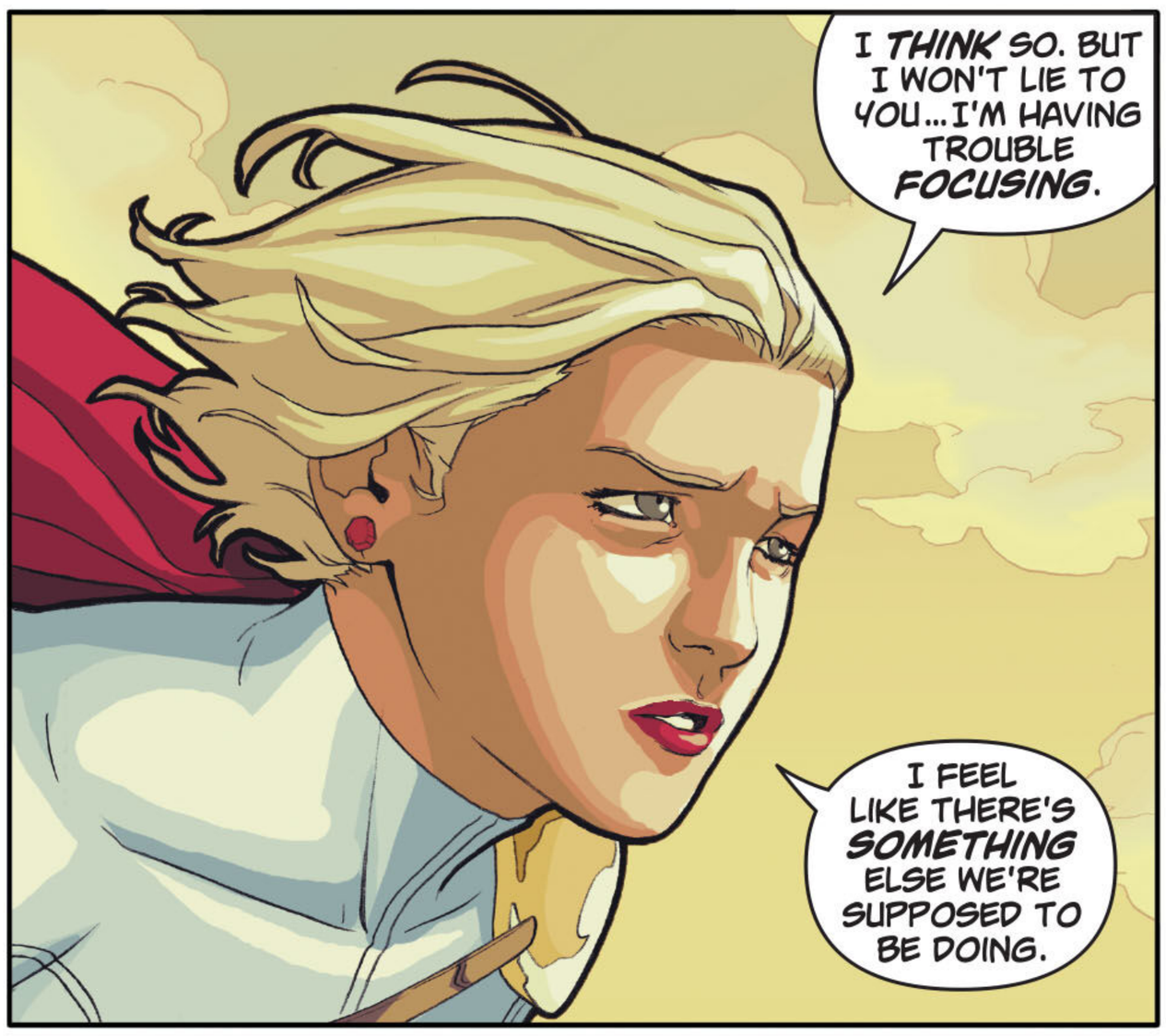

ALMOST TWENTY MINUTES.
YOU SEEMED WAAAAY TUCKERED OUT AFTER YOUR J.S.A. POWWOW.
YOU JUST STRIPPED DOWN, BALLED UP AND WHAM--UNCONSCIOUS! BUT, HEY--

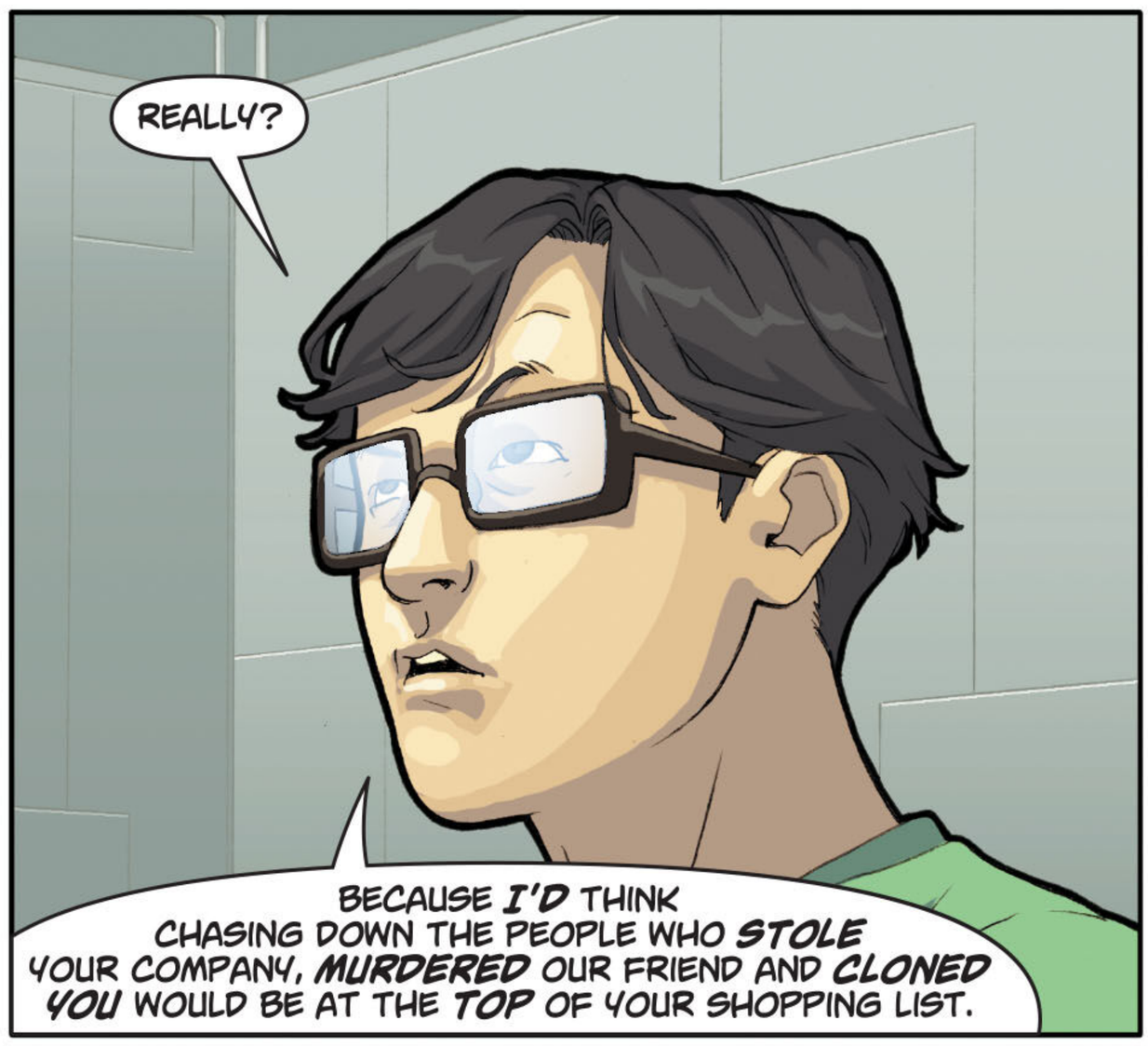

--I THINK I GOT SOMETHING.
I FEEL LIKE THERE WAS...SOMETHING IMPORTANT. SOMETHING I SHOULD TRY TO... REMEMBER...ABOUT THE DREAM...
THERE WAS ABOUT EIGHTY-FIVE MILLION TONS OF INTERFERENCE--AND THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE THE FIVE BILLION MILES OF JAMMING FREQUENCIES...
...BEARING IN MIND THAT THESE AREN'T REAL NUMBERS, JUST MY SARCASM...


...BUT I THINK I KNOW WHERE CRASH AND DIVINE WENT!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?


YOU LOST AN EARRING.
I DID?
I DID.
"DURING THE FIGHT WITH DIVINE.
"AND AFTER THAT... I THINK IT FOUND ITSELF A RIDE."
WHERE ARE THEY?
IT WAS BADLY DAMAGED, AND THE SIGNAL WAS FAINT AND INTERMITTENT AAAAND LIKE I SAID THEY WERE SCRAMBLING THE SPIT OUT OF THEIR--
WHERE ARE THEY?
"VIETNAM."
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
NO. I'M JOKING. I'M THROWING YOU A SURPRISE PARTY AND THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I KNEW I COULD GET YOU THERE.

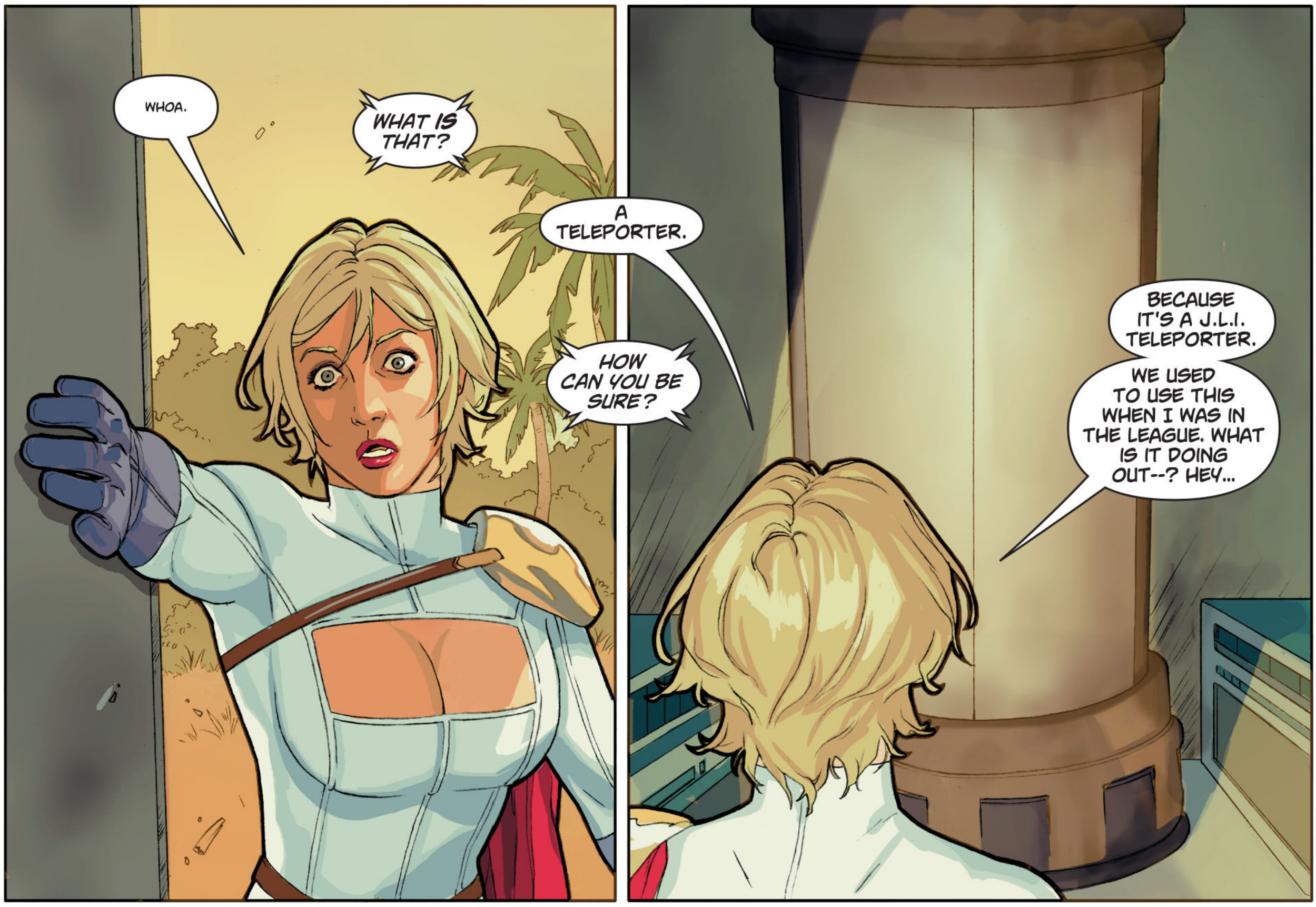

DON'T GET SNOTTY.
I'M NOT. YOU JUST SEEM... DISTRACTED. YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

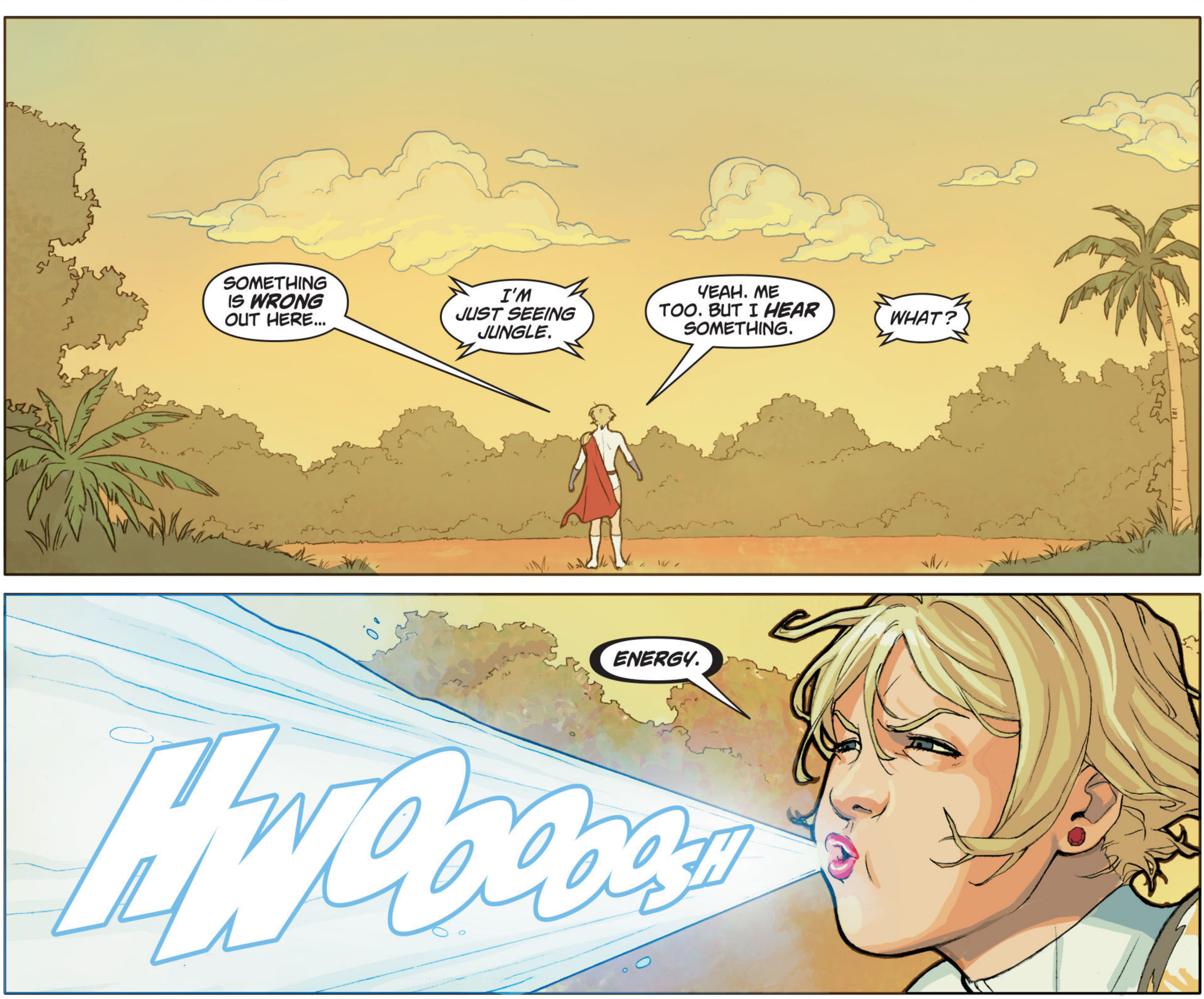

I THINK SO. BUT I WON'T LIE TO YOU...I'M HAVING TROUBLE FOCUSING.
I FEEL LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING.

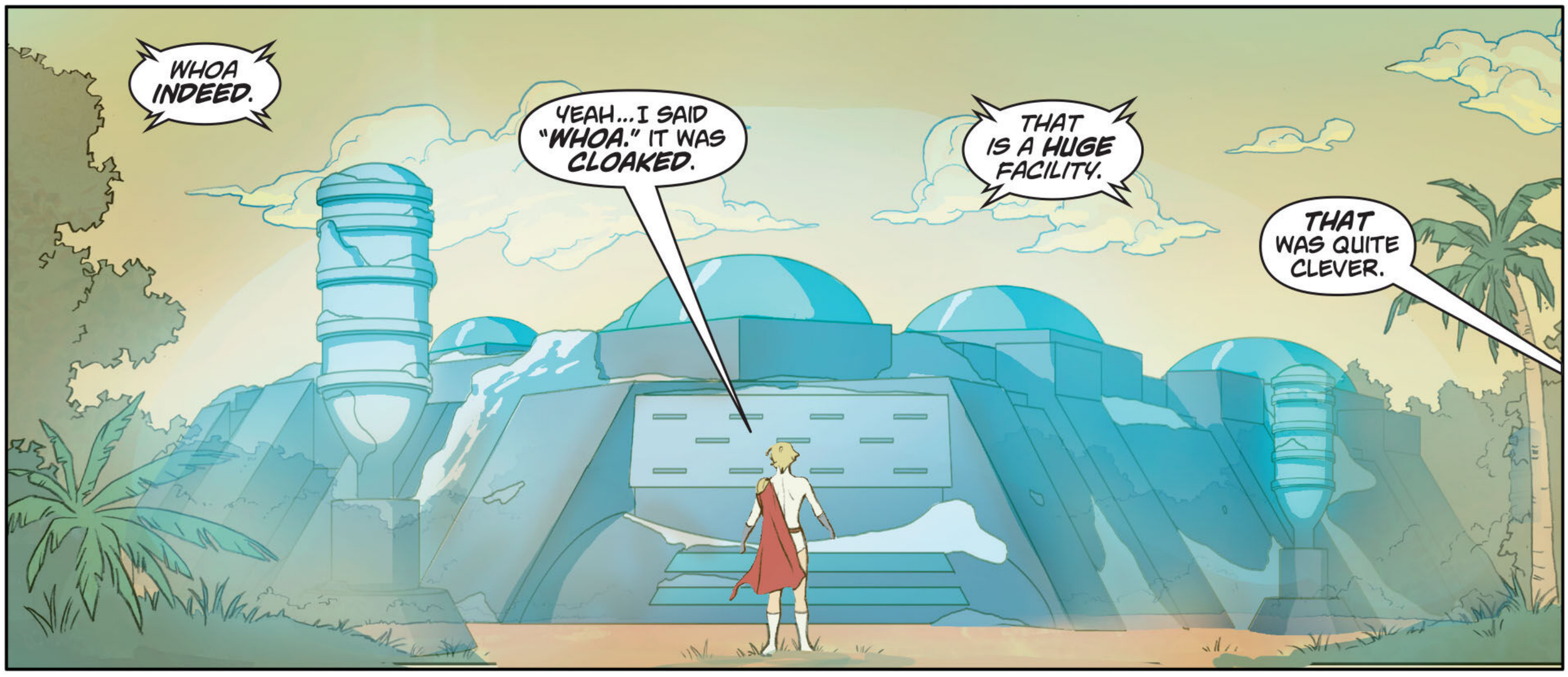

REALLY?
BECAUSE I'D THINK CHASING DOWN THE PEOPLE WHO STOLE YOUR COMPANY, MURDERED OUR FRIEND AND CLONED YOU WOULD BE AT THE TOP OF YOUR SHOPPING LIST.

IT IS. YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL GET MY GAME ON.
I'M TRACKING THE COORDINATES AND YOU SHOULD BE ALMOST ON TOP OF THE LOCATION THEY TELEPORTED TO.

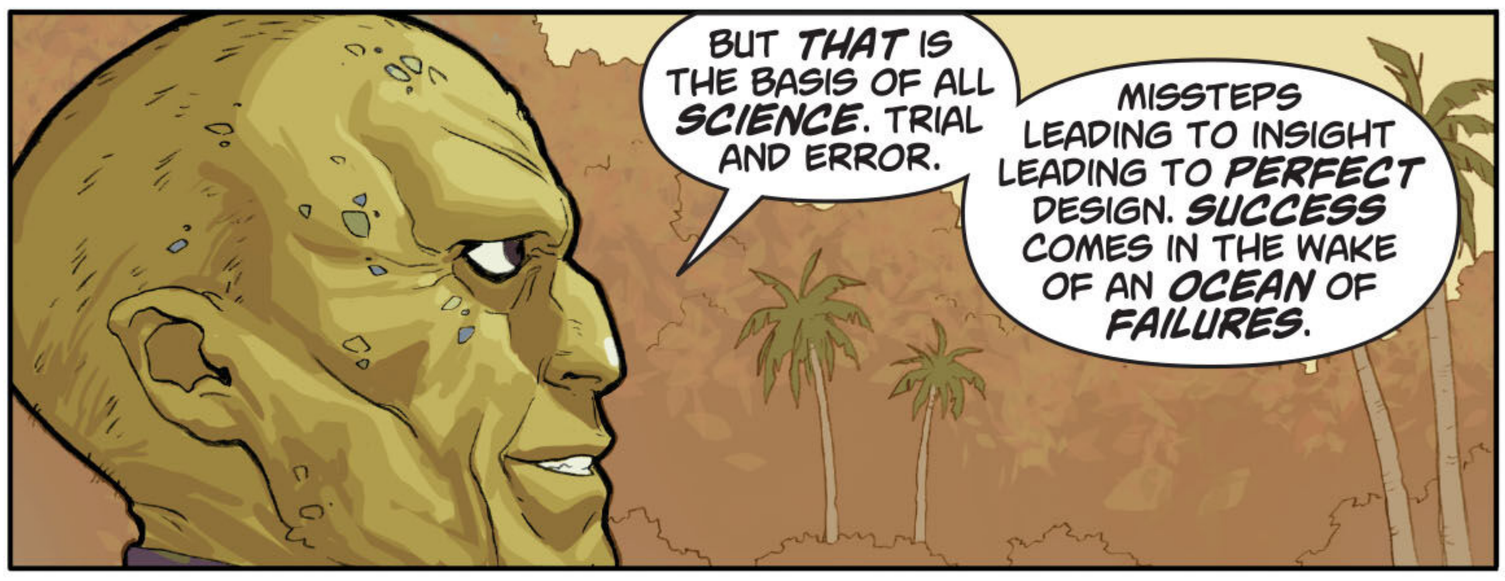
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH.
I'M NOT THE SUPERHERO... BUT DO SECRET LAIRS USUALLY HAVE SIGNS ABOVE THEM SAYING "SECRET LAIRS"?
JUST THE ULTRA HUMANITE'S.


WHOA.
WHAT IS THAT?
A TELEPORTER.
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?
BECAUSE IT'S A J.L.I. TELEPORTER.
WE USED TO USE THIS WHEN I WAS IN THE LEAGUE. WHAT IS IT DOING OUT--? HEY...

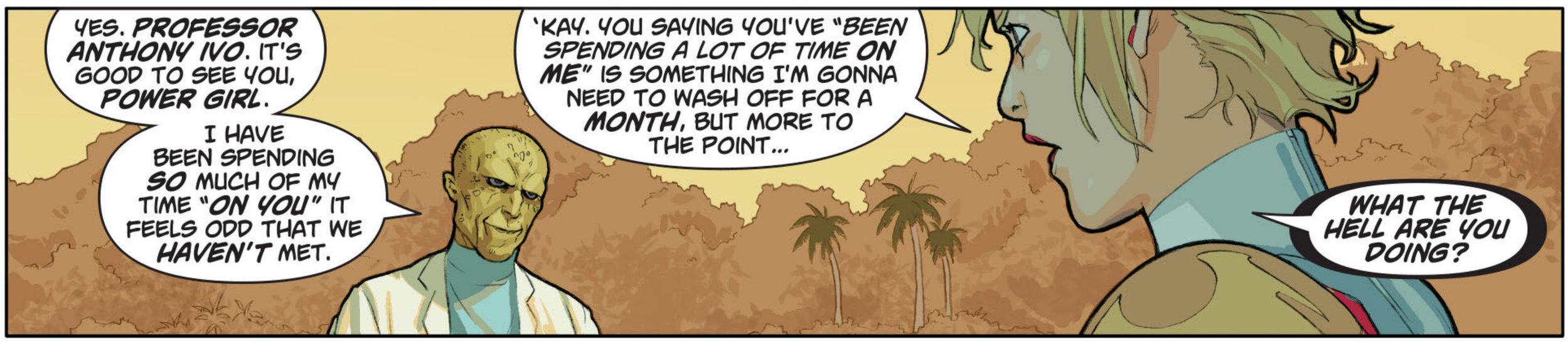

SOMETHING IS WRONG OUT HERE...
I'M JUST SEEING JUNGLE.
YEAH. ME TOO. BUT I HEAR SOMETHING.
WHAT?
ENERGY.
HWOOOOSH

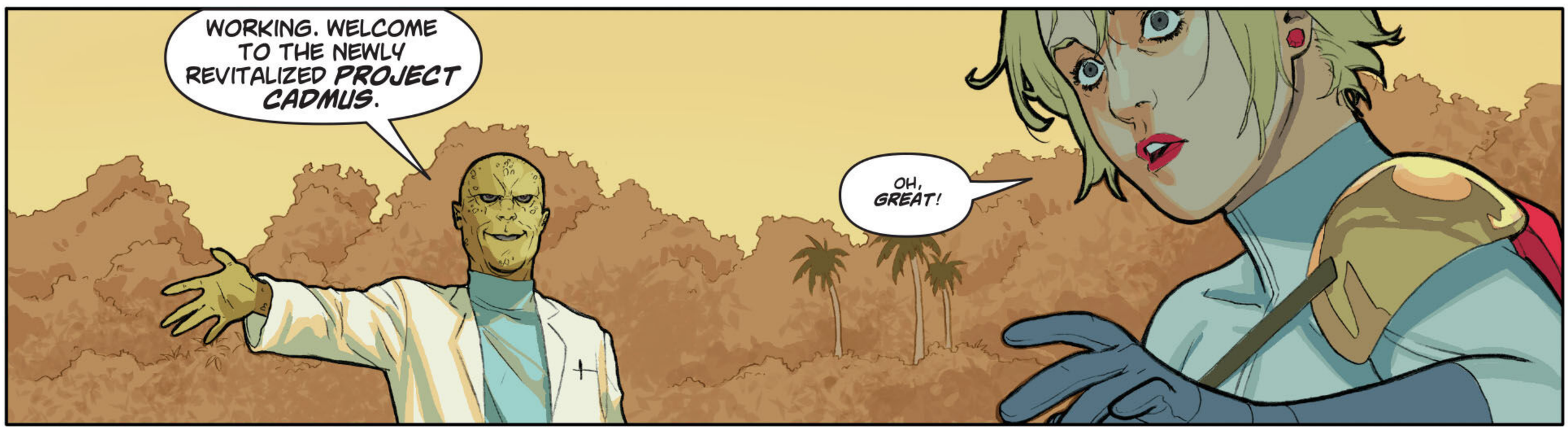

WHOA INDEED.
YEAH...I SAID "WHOA." IT WAS CLOAKED.
THAT IS A HUGE FACILITY.
THAT WAS QUITE CLEVER.

VIETNAM HAS A MEAN TEMPERATURE OF NINETY DEGREES...
...SO, I NEVER IMAGINED OUR CLOAKING TECHNOLOGY WOULD HAVE TO BEAR FRIGID TEMPERATURES.
NEXT TIME I WON'T BE SO OVER-CONFIDENT.

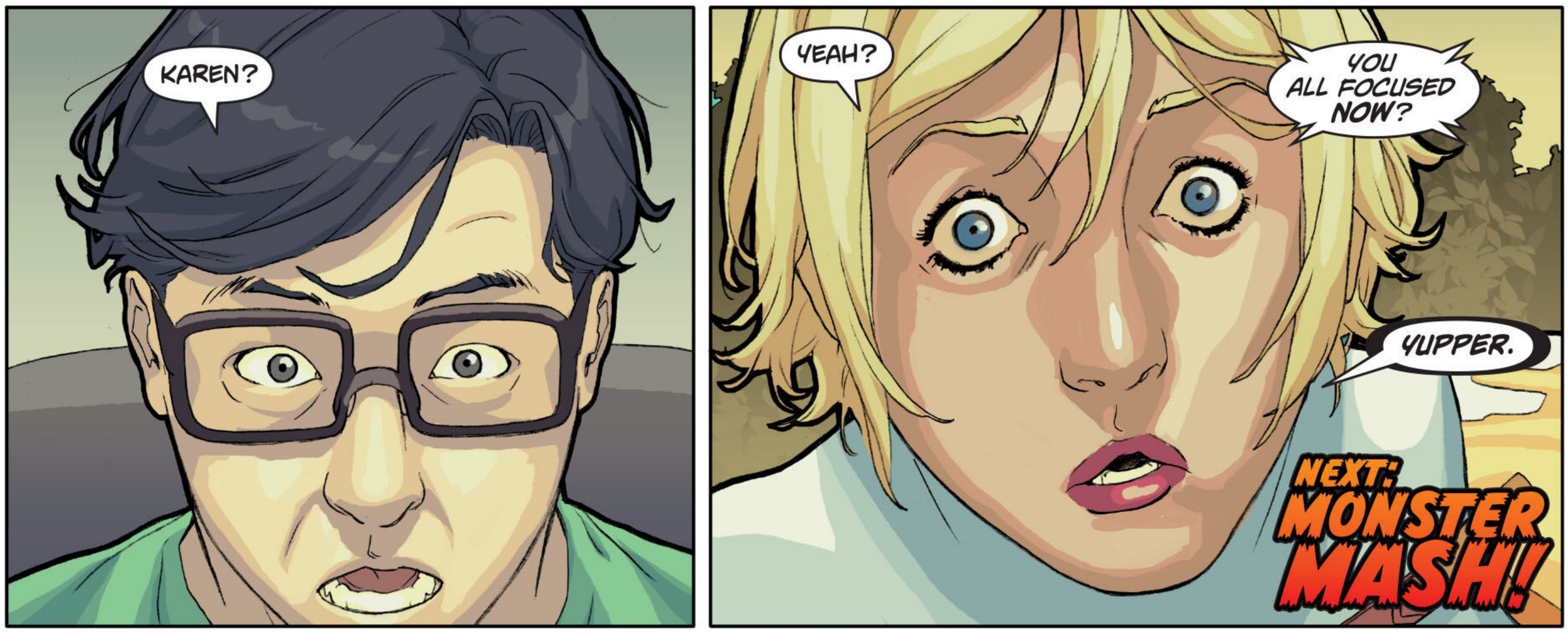

BUT THAT IS THE BASIS OF ALL SCIENCE. TRIAL AND ERROR.
MISSTEPS LEADING TO INSIGHT LEADING TO PERFECT DESIGN. SUCCESS COMES IN THE WAKE OF AN OCEAN OF FAILURES.

I KNOW YOU. YOU'RE IVO.


YES. PROFESSOR ANTHONY IVO. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, POWER GIRL.
I HAVE BEEN SPENDING SO MUCH OF MY TIME "ON YOU" IT FEELS ODD THAT WE HAVEN'T MET.
'KAY. YOU SAYING YOU'VE "BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME ON ME" IS SOMETHING I'M GONNA NEED TO WASH OFF FOR A MONTH, BUT MORE TO THE POINT...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?


WORKING. WELCOME TO THE NEWLY REVITALIZED PROJECT CADMUS.
OH, GREAT!

THIS IS WHERE I *BUILD* THINGS.



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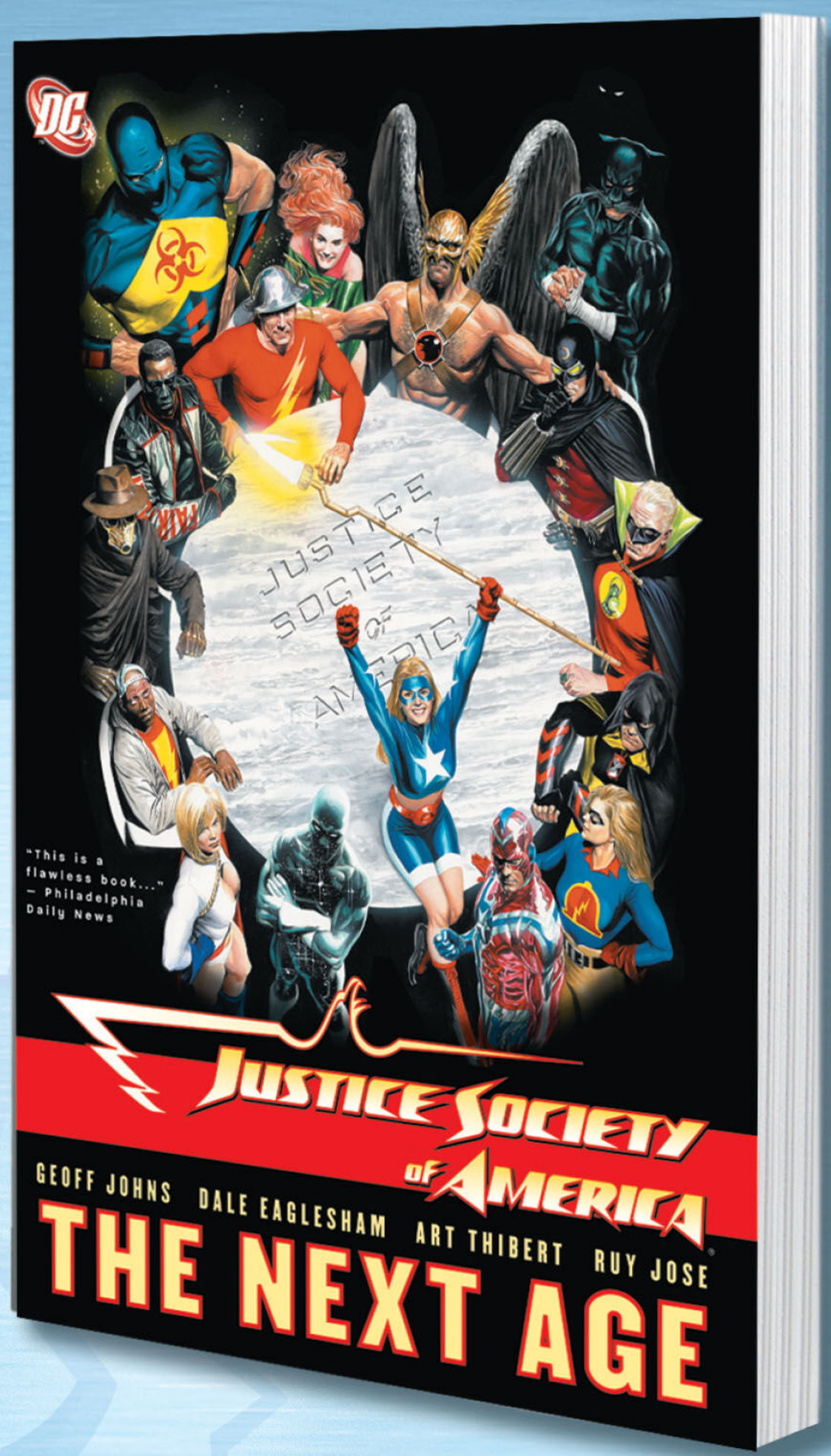
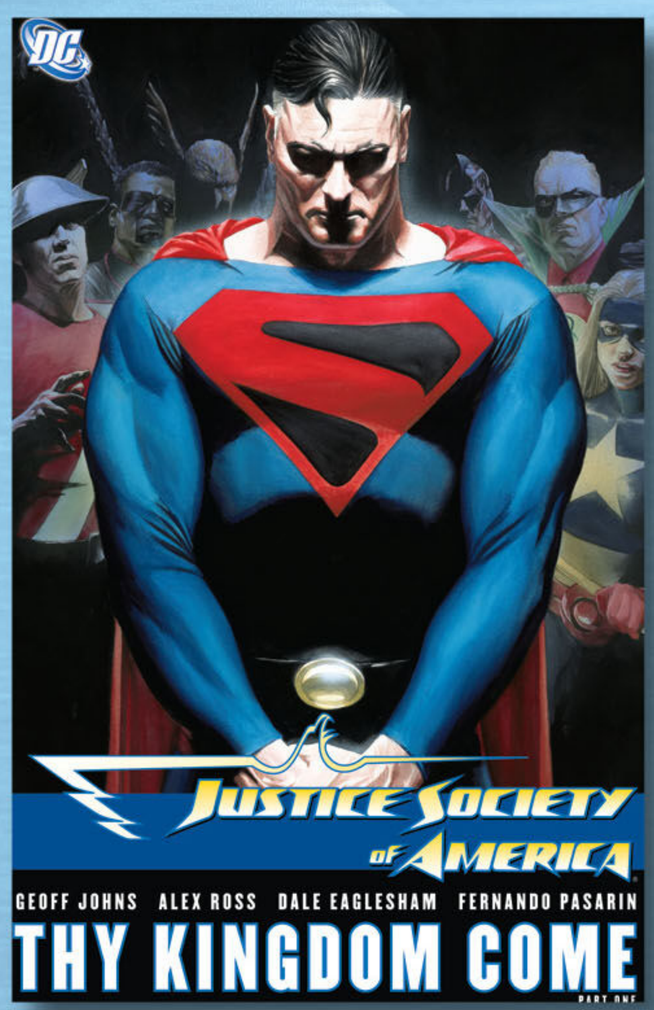


JUSTICE SOCIETY
OF AMERICA
THY KINGDOM COME PART 1



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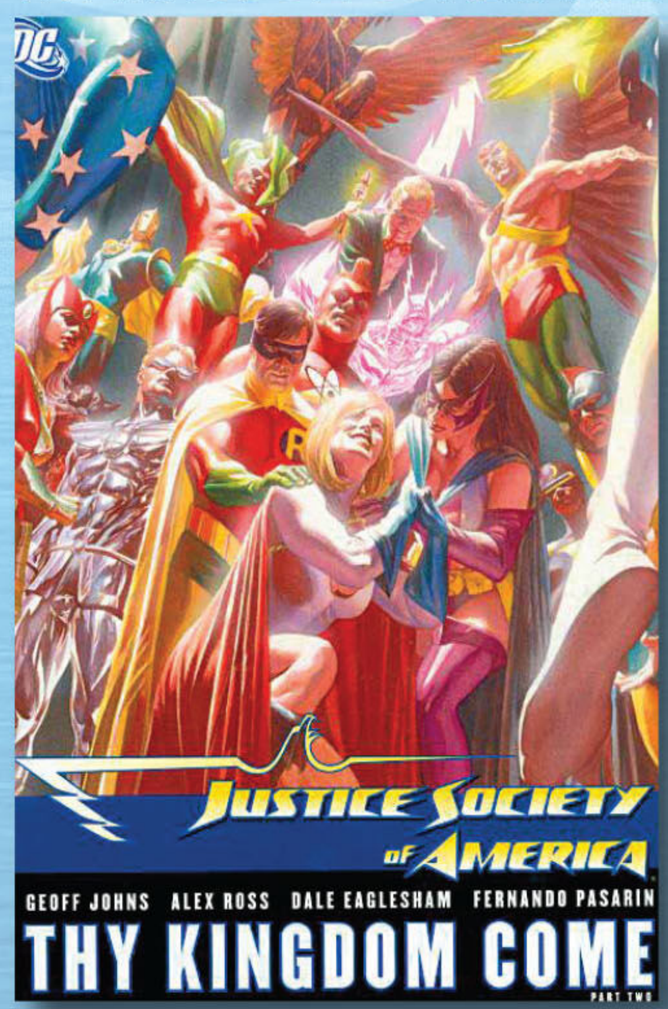
THY KINGDOM COME PART 2



with
DALE EAGLESHAM
& ALEX ROSS

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with
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